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THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY

by Carry to Shorben



HIGH IN THE ROCK-RIBBED HILLS, GLOOMY AND DESOLATE, STANDS BLANDEN CASTLE, BUILT CENTURIES AGO IN SCOTLAND AND TRANSPORTED TO AMERICA STONE BY STONE. IT HAS BROUGHT WITH IT A HERITAGE OF DEATH, WEIRD AND VIOLENT. INTO THIS GRIM SETTING, STEPS THE BLACK HOOD

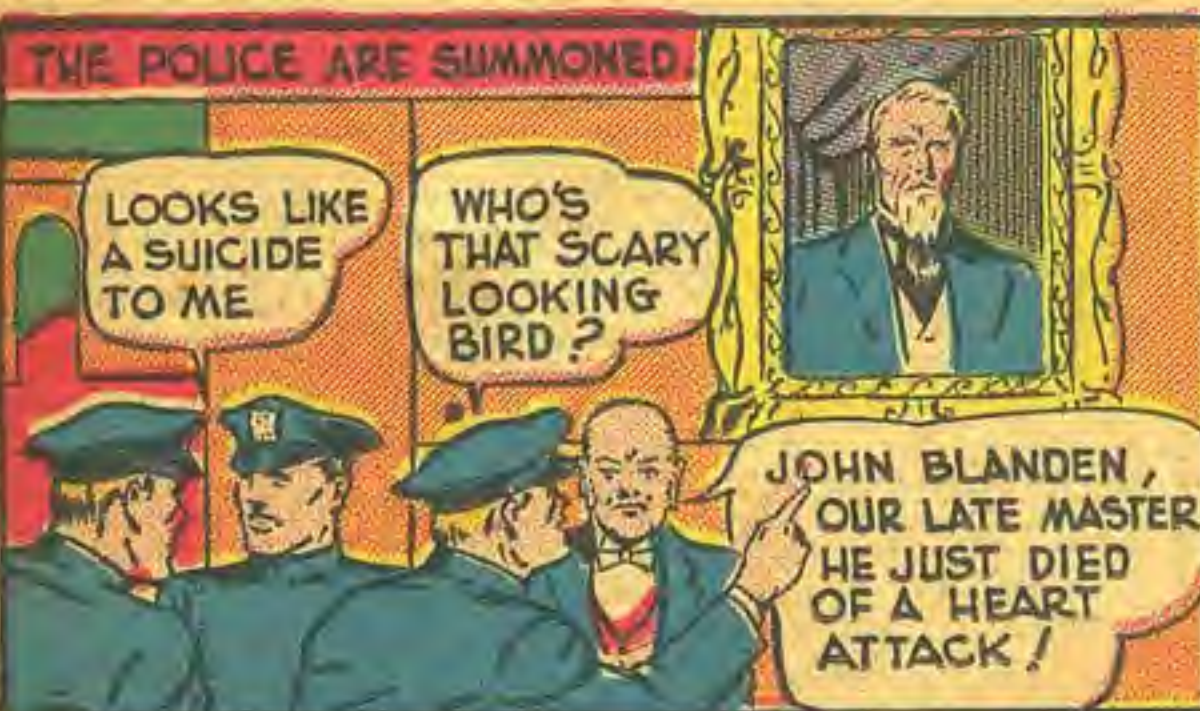


GOOD HEAVENS! HE FELL OFF THE ROOF!



WHY IT'S WILLIAM BLANDEN, OUR LATE MASTER'S BROTHER!

I... I'M DYING, JARIS! THE GHOST OF BLANDEN CASTLE ... PUSHED ME OFF! UGH...!



THE POLICE ARE SUMMONED.

LOOKS LIKE A SUICIDE TO ME

WHO'S THAT SCARY LOOKING BIRD?

JOHN BLANDEN, OUR LATE MASTER. HE JUST DIED OF A HEART ATTACK!



IT WAS HE WHO BROUGHT THIS CASTLE OF HIS SCOTTISH ANCESTOR'S HERE! HIS WILL IS TO BE READ THIS VERY NIGHT!

JOHN BLANDEN THE MILLIONAIRE. SOME RELATIVES ARE GOING TO FALL IN SOFT!



AND NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL GATHER ROUND, I'LL READ THE WILL OF MR. JOHN BLANDEN! IT IS AN UNUSUAL ONE AND WILL TAKE MUCH TIME!



IT CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF THE GHOST OF BLANDEN CASTLE. I AM REQUIRED TO READ IT BEFORE THE EXECUTION OF THE ESTATE, ITSELF... WE GO BACK TO THE GHOST'S FIRST VICTIM, SIR OLIVER BLANDEN, 300 YEARS AGO...

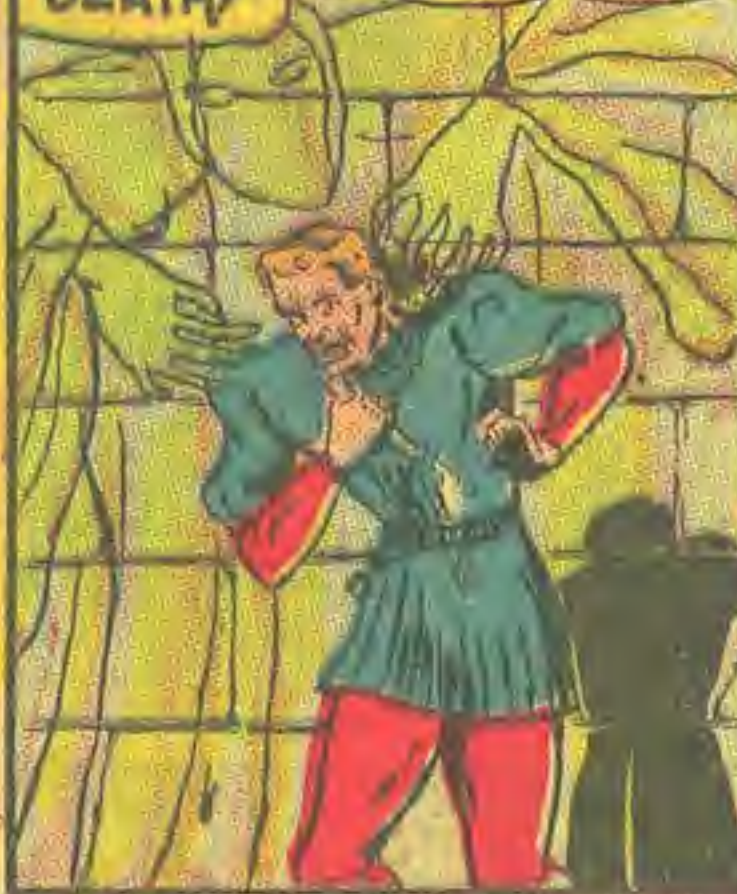


ONE NIGHT HE RAN, SCREAMING, THROUGH THE CASTLE...

THE GHOST! HELP! IT'S COMING AT ME!



...LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE GHOST DROVE SIR OLIVER TO STAB HIMSELF TO DEATH!



THE GHOST CLAIMED ANOTHER VICTIM 100 YEARS LATER WHEN THE SERVANTS CAME INTO LADY MARGARET'S BEDROOM TO A GRUESOME SIGHT—HER DECAPITATED HEAD LYING ON HER OWN CHEST!



WAIT A MINUTE! DON'T ANYBODY MOVE!

GOOD HEAVENS, JOE, WHAT IS IT?



JOE SUDDENLY THROWS A FLYING TACKLE AT THE DRAPES!



WHY... WHY, IT'S KIP BURLAND!

HELLO, BARBARA! THAT'S RATHER A ROUGH WELCOME I JUST GOT!





I... ER... TRAILED
ALONG TO
PROTECT YOU
FROM THAT...
UH... GHOST!

SPIED
ON ME,
IS
WHAT
YOU
MEAN!

YOU -
PROTECT
HER! HA,
HA! THAT
IS A
LAUGH!



GENTLEMEN! LADIES! AND NOW IF THIS
INTERRUPTION IS OVER, I WILL RESUME
THE WILL'S NARRATIVE! EXACTLY
ANOTHER CENTURY PASSED BEFORE
THE GHOST APPEARED AGAIN!
THIS TIME TO SIR
KINGSLEY!

HE WAS WARMING HIMSELF BEFORE HIS
FIREPLACE AT THE TIME. HE FELT CLAMMY
HANDS ON HIS THROAT! HORROR STRICKEN
HE BROKE FROM ITS GRASP!



YOU... YOU'LL
NEVER GET
ME!



THEN HE LEAPED INTO THE FLAMES AND
TO HIS OWN DESTRUCTION!

AND SO THE GHOST OF BLANDEN
CASTLE WILL RETURN EVERY
HUNDRED YEARS. THIS IS THE
EXACT YEAR OF ITS ARRIVAL. I,
JOHN BLANDEN, WILL GO FIRST,
THEN MY BROTHER WILLIAM!
ALL THE HEIRS OF BLANDEN
CASTLE ARE DOOMED!



SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC
LIGHTS GO OUT, AND
THE DARKNESS IS LIT
ONLY BY A SPUTTERING
TORCH!



HELP!
LOOK!

A TORCH!
HOW'D THAT
THING LIGHT
UP?

A FIGURE SEEMINGLY BORN
OF THE DARKNESS, LEAPS
UPWARD!



OH!

WHO... WHO....!

IT'S THE **BLACK HOOD**! HE MUST BE BEHIND THIS THING. HE DON'T SCARE JOE STRONG! I'M GOIN' AFTER HIM!



JOE SEES THE **BLACK HOOD** SEARCHING THROUGH THE ROOM AND LET'S HIS FISTS FLY

GO AROUND SCARIN' PEOPLE, HUH? I'LL FIX YOU!

YOU FOOL! YOU'RE KEEPING ME FROM CATCHING THE **REAL GHOST**!

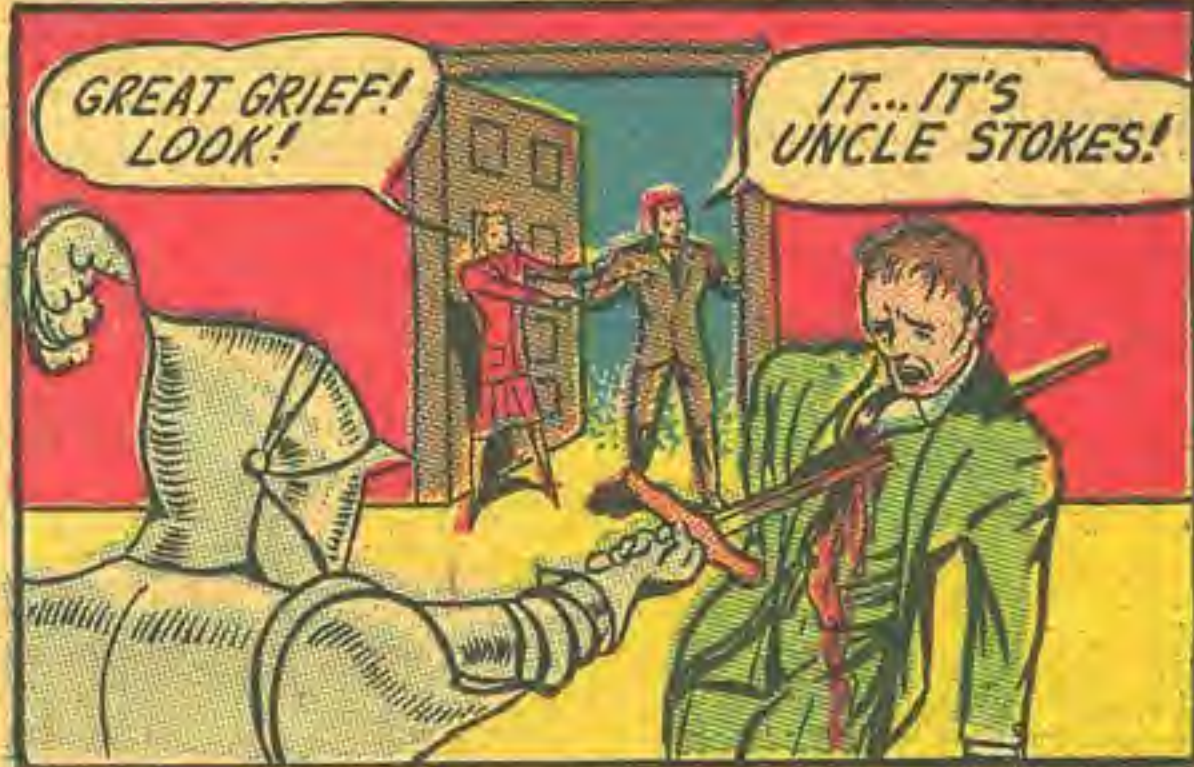


YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO SCARE THE **BLACK HOOD**! IT AIN'T FAIR! HE USED A HAMMER ON ME.



GREAT GRIEF! LOOK!

IT... IT'S **UNCLE STOKES**!



NOBODY IN HERE! HOW COULD THIS EMPTY ARMOR HAVE KILLED STOKES?

CAN THERE REALLY BE SOMETHING IN THIS GHOST BUSINESS, AFTER ALL?



NO! IT'S ALL THAT **HOOD**'S DOING. HEY! HERE COMES **BURLAND**! WHERE'S HE BEEN HIDIN'? HE KNOWS SOMETHIN' ABOUT THIS MURDER! GRAB HIM!

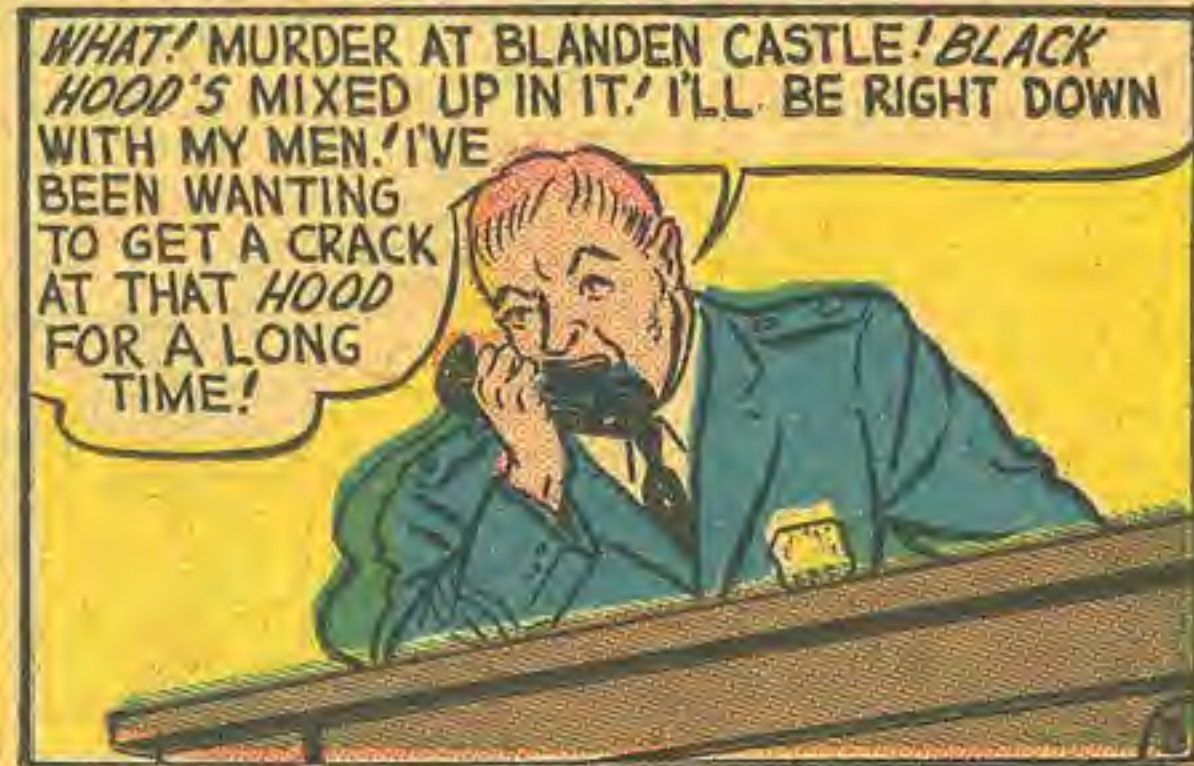


I DIDN'T TRUST THIS GUY FROM THE BEGINNING! I'M CALLIN' THE POLICE!

YOU'RE EVEN MORE STUPID THAN YOU LOOK!



WHAT! MURDER AT **BLANDEN CASTLE**! **BLACK HOOD**'S MIXED UP IN IT! I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN WITH MY MEN! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GET A CRACK AT THAT **HOOD** FOR A LONG TIME!



OKAY NOW! COME CLEAN OR I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT! YOU CAME OUT OF THE SAME ROOM THE BLACK HOOD WAS IN! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?

I KNOW THAT IT'S A GOOD THING FOR YOU HE NEVER WENT TO HOGWASH UNIVERSITY, OR YOU NEVER WOULD'VE BEEN BOXING CHAMP! WHAT A SHINER! HA HA!



THE POLICE SOON ARRIVE

ALL RIGHT. WHERE'S THE CORPSE? HEY, THAT'S BURLAND! HE MIXED UP IN THIS THING TOO?



HE KNOWS PLENTY, BUT HE WON'T TALK!

JOE! KIP IS INNOCENT! YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR!

THANKS BARBARA!



EVERY TIME THE BLACK HOOD PULLS SOME SHINANIGANS, YOU'RE AROUND. THIS TIME I'M SWEATIN' IT OUTTA YOU, OR ME NAME AIN'T MC GINTY! WHO'S THE HOOD?



WHY DON'T YOU ASK JOE? HE HAD A RECENT MEETING WITH HIM AND THEY HIT IT OFF QUITE WELL!

CUT OUT THE WISECRACKS!



ONCE AGAIN BLANDEN CASTLE IS ENVELOPED IN THICK BLACKNESS.



HEY! WHAT HAPPENED?

THE LIGHTS AGAIN!

THE GHOST STRIKES AGAIN.

MOTHER MACHREE! IT'S A BANSHEE!



TAKE IT EASY, EVERYBODY! I'LL GET HIM THIS TIME!

BUT THE IMPETUOUS JOE'S FLYING TACKLE FINDS A BLANK WALL AS IT'S TARGET.



WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON AGAIN!

THAT SPALPEEN
BURLAND! HE'S
GOT AWAY!



IN THE DARKNESS KIP BURLAND BECOMES THE
BLACK HOOD AGAIN

THE GHOST!
IT'S CLAIMED
ANOTHER VICTIM!
I CAUGHT A
GLIMPSE OF
IT FLITTING
INTO THIS
ROOM!



THAT
SCENE IN THE OTHER ROOM
WAS A MOVING PICTURE
PROJECTION! AND THAT
FOOL JOE, FELL FOR IT!



THIS MACE
COMES IN
HANDY AS A
POLE VAULT!

OH, OH! THERE IT GOES! THROUGH A SECRET
PANEL! YOU'RE NOT SHAKING ME THIS TIME,
MR. GHOST!



THIS WALL'S TOO THICK FOR
ME TO BREAK THROUGH -
I'LL HAVE TO LOCATE THE
BUTTON THAT OPERATES
IT!



I WASTED A
LOT OF
TIME FIND-
ING THAT
BUTTON.
I'VE GOT
TO HURRY!





CURSE IT, THE BLACK HOOD
MANAGED TO FOLLOW ME!

THE GHOST CAME
THROUGH HERE. IT
MUST BE SOMEWHERE
AROUND!

THE GHOST SWOOPS DOWN ON
BARBARA!

YOU COME
WITH ME!

HELP!

GREAT
LORD!

SHE'S FAINTED!
GOOD! SHE'LL BE
LESS TROUBLE!

BUT THE BLACK HOOD IS STILL IN
HOT PURSUIT!

THE GHOST! IT'S
GOT BARBARA!

YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
I MUST SAVE
BARBARA!

THERE'S
THE BLACK
HOOD! DON'T
LET HIM
ESCAPE!

STOP!
OR
WE'LL
SHOOT!

DON'T HAND ME
THAT! YOU'RE
MIXED UP WITH
ALL THESE MUR-
DERS! MAYBE
YOU'RE THE GHOST
FOR ALL WE
KNOW!

THAT'S
RIGHT!
YOUR
GAME'S UP,
HOOD!

ULP! HALP!

SORRY, I
HAVEN'T
TIME TO
CONVINCE
YOU NOW!



I HOPE I HAVEN'T BEEN DELAYED TOO LONG!

BLAST HIM!
HE'S GETTIN'
AWAY!



THIS STAIRCASE
LEADS TO THE
ROOF!



WHILE ON THE ROOF!

OVER YOU GO,
MY PRETTY!

NO! PLEASE!
HELP!



BARBARA RESISTS DESPERATELY, BUT SHE IS PUSHED FURTHER AND FURTHER TOWARD THE EDGE!

HEH, HEH! YOU
DON'T WISH TO
DIE, EH!



BUT YOU SHALL!
OVER YOU GO!

GREAT HEAVENS!
SHE'S
ALMOST
OFF!

EEEE!



LET GO OF HER, YOU
WALKING BEDSHEET!
....HANG ON
BARBARA!



BACK AND FORTH IN DEADLY COMBAT
THE TWO STRUGGLE - A BLACK KNIGHT
OF JUSTICE AND A SHROUDED
FIGURE OF DOOM!

MAYBE THIS'LL CONVINCE
YOU I'M NOT FOOLING!



BUT THE GHOST MANAGES TO
CATCH HOLD OF A GARGOYLE
AND CHECK HIS DOWNWARD
PLUNGE!



LOOK! THE
GHOST IS
ESCAPING!

NOT FOR
LONG,
THOUGH!



I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE'S
GOING, AND I'M GOING AFTER
HIM! HE'S COMMITTED HIS
LAST GHASTLY MURDER!

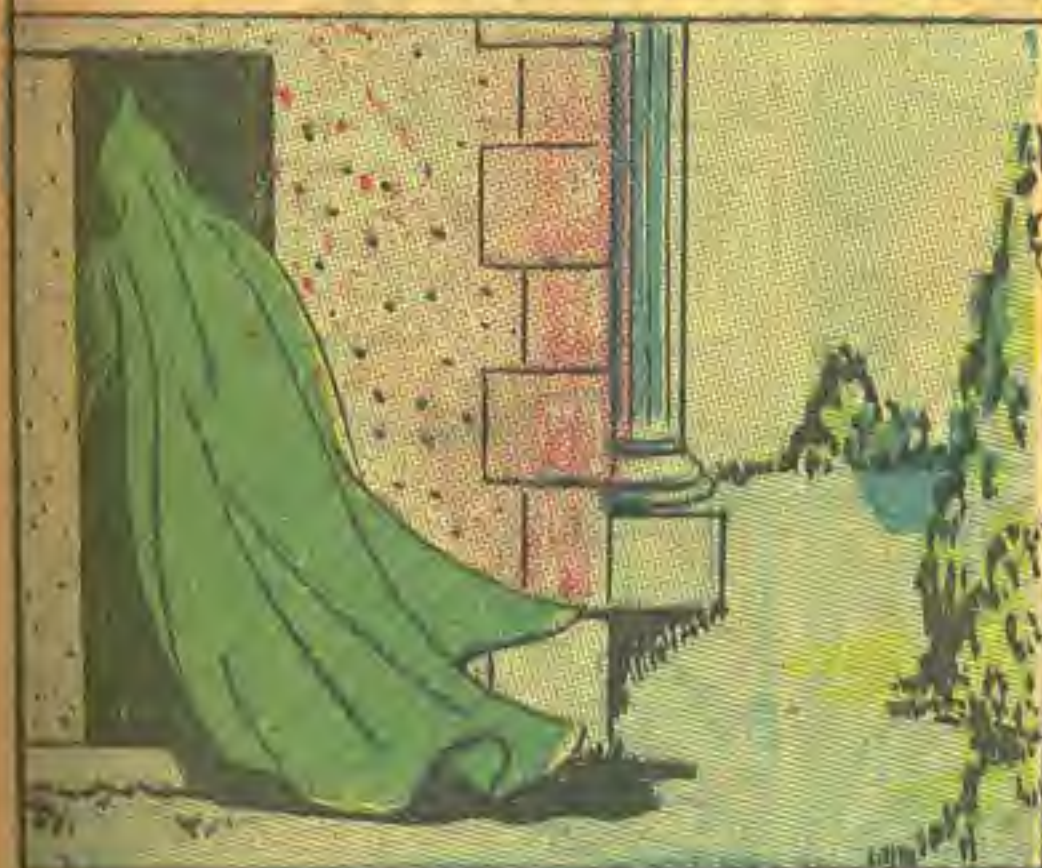
OH HOOD! I
DON'T UNDERSTAND
IT ALL... BUT... BUT
PLEASE BE
CAREFUL



THE WEIRD, WHITE-ROBED FIGURE
MAKES FOR A NEARBY CRYPT



AND ENTERS IT THROUGH A SECRET DOOR



AN EERIE SCENE IS ENACTED. THE GHOST
GOES TO A COFFIN, AND....





YOU...!

SURPRISED, EH! DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY WOULD DISCOVER YOUR LITTLE SET-UP, ?



I CAME ACROSS YOUR INGENUOUS LITTLE COFFIN WHILE CHASING YOU THROUGH THE CORRIDORS. ONE OF THEM LED ME TO THE FALSE BOTTOM YOU HAD RIGGED UP FOR IT! YOUR GAME'S UP!



NOT YET, CURSE YOU! ONLY YOU KNOW, AND DEATH SHALL SEAL YOUR LIPS!

ARRGH!



AFTER I'VE FINISHED YOU, I SHALL RETURN THROUGH MY COFFIN TO THE REST OF THE HEIRS, AND COMPLETE MY PLAN!



HA! HIS MUSCLES RELAX! HE IS DONE! DIE! DIE!



FOOLED YOU, DIDN'T I, ?



THE GHOST IS HURLED INTO THE OPEN COFFIN



SO YOU WANTED TO PLAY GHOST, EH! WELL, I'LL HELP YOU! BACK INTO YOUR COFFIN!

SLAM



NOW, I'LL JUST COOP HIM IN THERE WITH THIS TOMB-STONE



I'VE MOVED THE COFFIN AWAY FROM THE TRAP-DOOR IN THE FLOOR, SO THAT MR. GHOST WON'T BE ABLE TO SWING OPEN THAT FALSE BOTTOM. HE'LL BE SAFE IN THERE FOR AWHILE!



MEANWHILE, IN THE CASTLE

BARBARA! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN! WE GAVE YOU UP FOR DEAD!

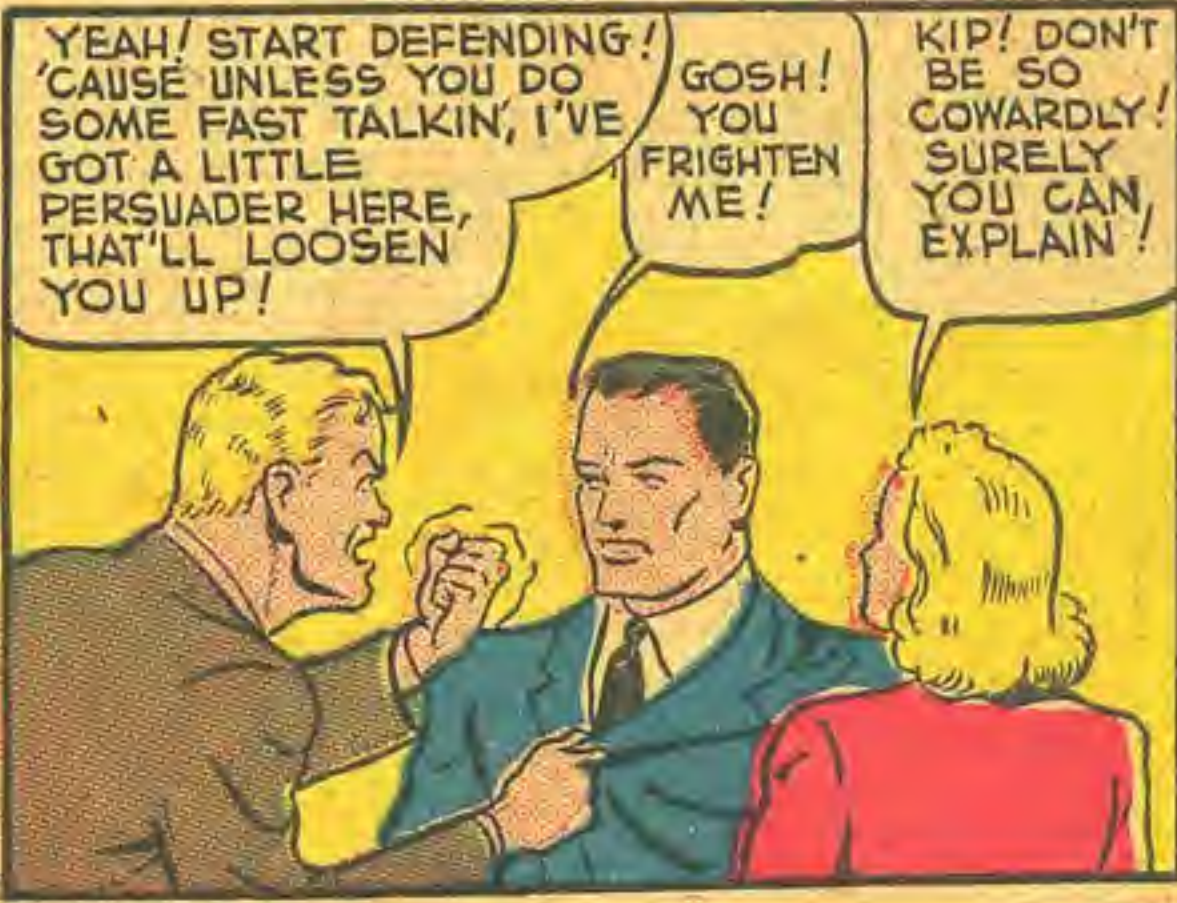
I WOULD HAVE BEEN IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE BLACK HOOD - THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN ACCUSING ALL ALONG, YOU... YOU... LOUDMOUTH!



THAT BURLAND FELLOW AGAIN! ALWAYS MISSING AFTER A MURDER! OFFICER, I INSIST YOU ARREST HIM!

YOU BET I WILL!

KIP! WHY DON'T YOU DEFEND YOURSELF?



YEAH! START DEFENDING! 'CAUSE UNLESS YOU DO SOME FAST TALKIN', I'VE GOT A LITTLE PERSUADER HERE, THAT'LL LOOSEN YOU UP!

GOSH! YOU FRIGHTEN ME!

KIP! DON'T BE SO COWARDLY! SURELY YOU CAN EXPLAIN!



WELL...ER... I WAS A TRIFLE SCARED, I ADMIT! I WAS HIDING IN THE CRYPT AND THE BLACK HOOD WAS THERE. HE TOLD ME HE'D CAUGHT THE GHOST AND CLEARED UP THE WHOLE THING!

PAH! SUCH A RIDICULOUS STORY! ARREST HIM, I SAY!

PERHAPS HE CAN PROVE HIS STATEMENT, MR. BARTON!



KIP LEADS THEM ALL BACK TO THE CRYPT

NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST STEP IN HERE I THINK I CAN PRODUCE OUR PLAYFUL GHOST!



OOF! THIS STONE'S HEAVY!

(GRUNT!) THIS MUST HAVE FALLEN ACROSS!

THAT'S RIGHT, GENTLEMEN! AND NOW OPEN THE COFFIN LID!



WELL I'LL BE! HE WASN'T KIDDIN'!

YA MURDERIN' SPALPEEN! I'LL TAKE THIS GET-UP OFF AND SEE WHO YOU ARE!

YOU'RE DUE FOR A GREAT SHOCK!



HOLY MACKERAL! IT CAN'T BE! JOHN BLANDEN! BUT...BUT... YOU'RE DEAD!

WHAT'S THE GAG, BLANDEN! WHY'D YOU PRETEND TO DIE AND THEN TRY TO MURDER YOUR OWN HEIRS?



THE BLACK HOOD FIGURED THAT OUT TOO. BLANDEN WAS BROKE! HE NEEDED MONEY DESPERATELY. HE GOT HIS HEIRS TO INCLUDE HIM IN THEIR WILLS ON THE PROMISE THAT THEY WOULD GET TWICE AS MUCH IN HIS. NATURALLY THEY ACCEPTED, THINKING HE WAS A MILLIONAIRE! THAT GHOST LEGEND FITTED IN NICELY WITH HIS SCHEME!



YES! BUT I'M NOT INVOLVED ALONE. THE WHOLE SCHEME WAS BARTON'S - MY LAWYER. HE DREW UP ALL THE WILLS!

IT'S A LIE! I....



BARTON MAKES A BREAK FOR LIBERTY

WHOA! IF IT'S A LIE, WHY ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY?



BARTON WAS TO BE THE EXECUTOR OF MY ESTATE. HE'S PROBABLY CARRYING THE DEED AROUND WITH HIM!

I'LL SEARCH HIM... HERE'S SOMETHING!



THIS IS IT, ALL RIGHT! THIS AND BLANDEN'S CONFESSION WILL BE ENOUGH TO SEND YOU BOTH TO THE CHAIR!



LATER
GOOD THING I FOLLOWED YOU TO THE CASTLE, AFTER ALL, EH BARBARA!

HMMPH! NOW I SUPPOSE YOU'LL TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR THE BLACK HOOD'S WORK



EVERY ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS WILL BRING YOU THE BLACK HOOD, ACTION-PACKED, THRILL-A-MINUTE STORIES!

The Wizard

WITH
ROY THE SUPER-BOY



THE POLICE ARE BAFLED BY THE QUEEREST SERIES OF CRIMES THEY HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED. HOMELESS, IMPOVERISHED REFUGEES ARE MURDERED IMMEDIATELY UPON LEAVING THE BOAT. FOR WHAT PURPOSE? FOR WHAT GAIN? HOW WILL THE WIZARD AND ROY, THE SUPERBOY, UNRAVEL THIS ENIGMA?



GOT SOMETHIN' UP YOUR SLEEVE, HUH, BLANE!

CAN'T FOOL YOU, CAN I ROY... WE'RE GOING DOWN TO THE PIER AND DO A LITTLE SLEUTHING OURSELVES!



THEY SOON ARRIVE AT THE PIER



GOSH! I ALWAYS GET A KICK BEING AROUND SHIPS!

I'M GONNA LOOK AROUND WHILE BLANE IS BUSY TALKING WITH THE INSPECTOR!



LOOK, IKE! THERE COMES ONE! SMALL FAT GUY, BLUE SUIT AND TWO BLACK BAGS!

IT CHECKS, ALL RIGHT! HE'S OUR MAN!

SAY! SOMETHIN' FUNNY'S GOIN' ON! THOSE GUYS LOOK LIKE RACKETEERS AND THEY'RE DOWN HERE IDENTIFYING A REFUGEE. PROBABLY MY IMAGINATION, BUT I'LL DO SOME SNOOPIN' ANYWAY!



ROY TRACES HIS SUSPECTS TO A WAITING CAR.

OKAY, JOE! THE REFUGEE'S GONNA CROSS THE STREET! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!



GEARS GRIND - THE CAR FAIRLY LEAPS TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING REFUGEE



BUT A SLIM FIGURE SWOOPS UPON THE REFUGEE AND TEARS HIM FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH ITSELF



ACH!

WATCH OUT, MISTER!



WHY, YOU DIRTY LITTLE MEDDLER, NOW YOU BOTH GET IT!



BLANE WHITNEY - THE WIZARD - HAS A PHOTOGRAPHIC VISION OF ROY'S PREDICAMENT!

WHAT IN... ROY'S IN TROUBLE! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM!



HEY, WHAT?

THOUGHT YOU HAD ME, HUH?



OOF!

HOW'S THIS FOR USIN' MY HEAD?



THE WIZARD APPEARS

NICE PASSING, ROY! I GOT HIM!



NOW WE'LL FINISH THIS JOB IN A HURRY!



BUT ONE OF THE THUGS MANAGES TO DRAW A BEAD WITH HIS TOMMY-GUN!

I'LL BLAST THEIR HEADS OFF, THE DIRTY XX...!!



Ooo!

UGH!

HA, HA! GOT THE REFUGEE AND THE BRAT, ANYWAY!

ROY! HE'S SHOT!



NOW'S MY CHANCE TO LAM WITH THIS REFUGEE WHILE THAT WIZARD IS WORRIED ABOUT HIS BRAT!

ROY!
ROY!
TALK TO ME!



THE POLICE ARE COMING! I'VE NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! I'LL HAVE TO RUSH ROY TO MY LABORATORY IMMEDIATELY!



STOP!



THE WIZARD SOON ARRIVES AT HIS LABORATORY

AH! THE BULLET DIDN'T PROBE TOO DEEPLY! I'LL HAVE IT OUT IN A SHAKE!



WELL, WELL! SO THE PATIENT'S COMING A-ROUND! IT'S OFF TO THE HOSPITAL WITH YOU AND NO ARGUMENTS!

AW GEE!
I DON'T
NEED A HOSPI-
TAL, HONEST!



BUT THE WIZARD REFUSES ROY'S PLEAS, AND SO —

NOW YOU BE A
QUIET INVALID,
AND YOU'LL BE
ALL RIGHT —
HELLO JANE!

I JUST GOT YOUR MESSAGE AT THE OFFICE, BLANE, ABOUT ROY'S ILLNESS!



AS JANE SITS DOWN, BLANE PULLS A HANDKERCHIEF FROM HIS POCKET AND A GLITTERING OBJECT TUMBLES OUT

BLANE!
YOU
DROPPED
THIS!

JANE!
DON'T!
PLEASE!
I'LL GET IT
MYSELF!



MY, YOU SEEM AWFULLY ANXIOUS FOR ME NOT TO SEE IT! WHAT IS IT ANYWAY? WHY? IT LOOKS LIKE A DIAMOND.

IT'S...ER...A LITTLE DOO-DAD FOR A...ER...RING! THAT'S IT, A RING!

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME, BLANE. I KNOW YOU WENT DOWN TO THE PIER THIS MORNING, AND.... GOOD LORD! INCOMING BOAT....! DIAMOND....! WHY, IT MUST BE SMUGGLING! ...THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT BLANE?



YOUR SILENCE PROVES IT! IT'S A STORY AND I'M GOING TO WRITE IT! I'LL BET THOSE MURDERED REFUGEES TIE IN, TOO!

JANE! YOU MUSTN'T!



YOU'RE STICKIN' YOUR NECK OUT, JANE!

BUT JANE IS DEAF TO PROTESTS, AND SO LATER -

WUXTRY! READ ABOUT DIAMOND SMUGGLERS! WUXTRY!



JANE RETURNS TO THE HOSPITAL

WELL, MY STORY IS OUT ROY, AND IT'S SENSATIONAL. HERE, READ IT!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, JANE! THOSE SMUGGLERS ARE KILLERS!



THEY DON'T SCARE ME! I ONLY WISH I COULD FIND OUT WHERE THOSE REFUGEES FIT IN! THEY'RE NOT PART OF THE GANG, OR THEY WOULDN'T BE MURDERED!

I STILL THINK YOU OUGHT NOT TO MIX IN!



THAT BLANE AND ROY. THEY MAKE ME TIRED! ALWAYS THINKING I'M SO HELPLESS



OKAY, HERE SHE COMES!

YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US, SISTER! GRAB HER, JOE!

WHA... LET ME GO! HELP! HELP!



JUMPIN' JELLY BEANS! THAT'S JANE YELLIN'! I GOT TO GET TO HER!



THERE SHE IS! THEY'RE KIDNAPPIN' HER!



ROY SHUCKS HIS HOSPITAL ATTIRE AND THE SUPER BOY APPEARS



I DON'T NEED REST! I NEED ACTION!

A DAZZLING LEAP AND ROY'S SWINGING ALONG THE TELEPHONE WIRES



AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO GET PLENTY OF IT RIGHT NOW!

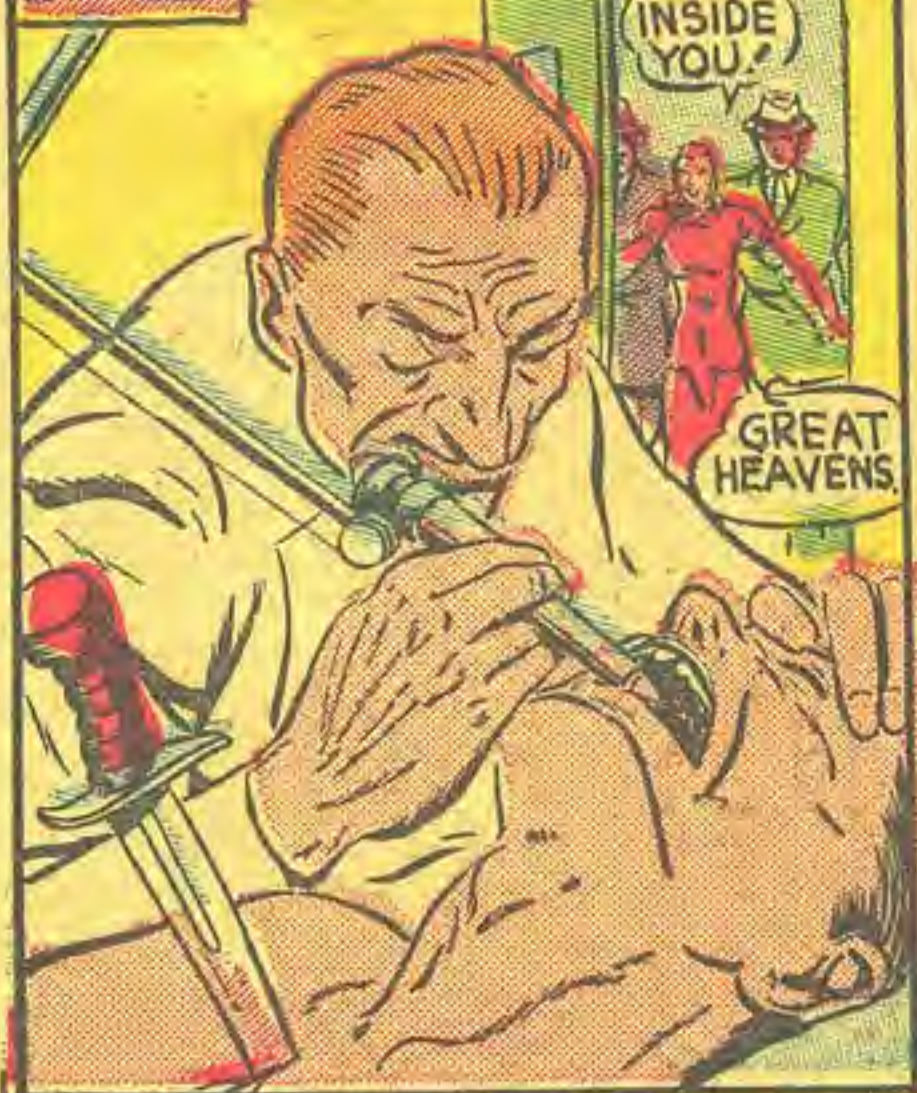
HERE COMES THE KIDNAPPER'S CAR ROUNDING THE CORNER. NOW I GOTTA TIME MY JUMP JUST RIGHT!



MADE IT! YOU GUYS GOT ANOTHER PASSENGER TO THE END OF THE LINE!



THE KIDNAPPERS SOON ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION, A DENTIST'S OFFICE



INSIDE YOU!

GREAT HEAVENS.

HA, HA! A DENTIST WORKING ON CORPSES! VERY STARTLING, EH?



YOU ... YOU GHOUL. WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?

VERY SIMPLE! YOUR STORY ON DIAMOND SMUGGLING INCONVENIENCES ME GREATLY! NOW IF YOU WILL JUST WRITE ANOTHER STORY ABOUT HOW WRONG YOU WERE.....



I'LL NEVER DO IT!

YOU WON'T EH! THIS DRILL CAN DO OTHER THINGS BESIDES DRILLING TEETH—VERY UNPLEASANT THINGS, MY DEAR!

NO, NO! HELP!



JANE'S CRIES LOUSE A RESPONSIVE CHORD IN THE WIZARD'S SUPER-HEARING!

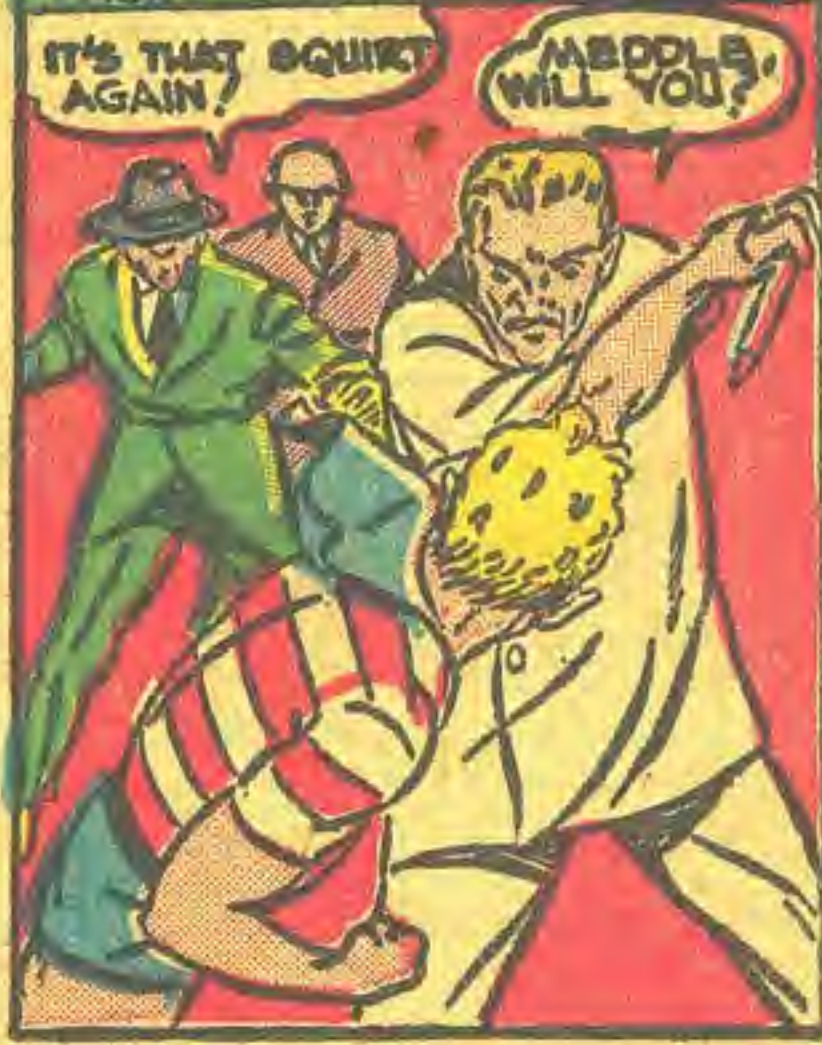


JANE'S IN DANGER THAT'S MY CUE! OH... OH! HERE COMES ROY! NICE GOING, BOY!

THE SUPER-BOY FEARLESSLY LEAPS INTO THE WICK OF THE DRILL!

IT'S THAT SQUIRT AGAIN!

MADDLE, WILL YOU?



HAVE YOURSELF A LITTLE FLING!

OOMPH!



UICK!



STOP FIGHTING, YOU IMP OF SATAN, OR THIS DRILL GOUGES DEEP INTO YOUR PRETTY FRIEND'S THROAT!

HEY! DON'T!



THE BOY OF THE FUTURE IS FORCED TO SUBMIT, AND HE IS IMMEDIATELY PUT UNDER ETHER. AN EXTRA DOSE OF THIS WILL PUT YOU TO SLEEP—PERMANENTLY!



STOP! DON'T KILL HIM! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY! I'LL WRITE THE RETRACTION!





Fran Frazer

FRAN FRAZER, BEAUTIFUL GIRL NEWS-PHOTOGRAPHER, IS IN MOSCOGRAD... AS SHE ROAMS THE STREETS IN SEARCH OF UN-USUAL SHOTS - A FOREIGN-MADE MOTORCAR ROARS TOWARD HER...



FRAN PICKS UP A PAPER WHICH THE GERMAN DROPPED.

AH, HECK! IT'S ALL IN GERMAN. AND I CAN'T READ A WORD OF IT!



THIS IS OFFICIAL STUFF! SO EVEN THO' THE FELLOW WASN'T A GENTLEMAN, I'LL BE A LADY AND RETURN IT!



BUT THE CAR HAS GONE....

JAPANESE EMBASSY



AND FRAN HURRIES TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

DONNERWETTER! I HAD DER PAPER A WHILE AGO!

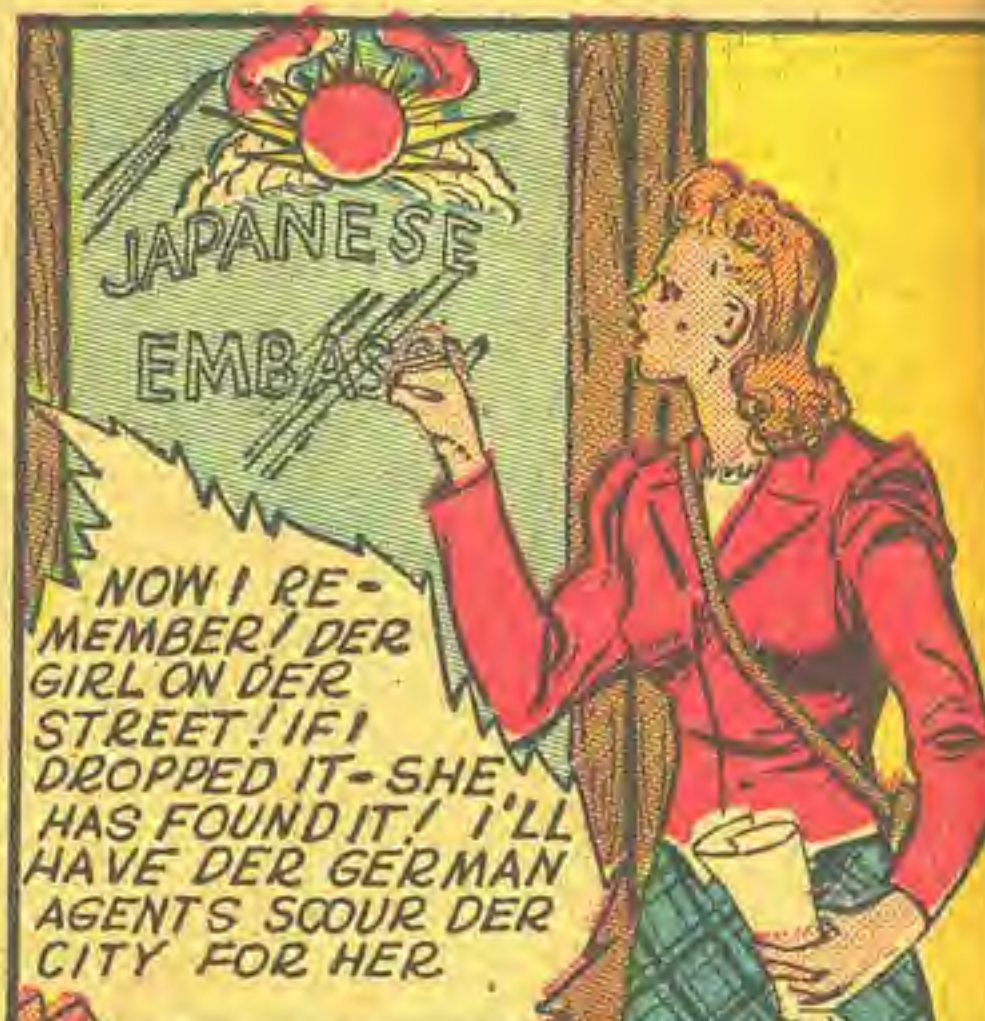


BUT HERR FIBBENTOP! IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE SEEN BY ANY EYES BUT OURS!



JAPANESE EMBASSY

NOW I REMEMBER! DER GIRL ON DER STREET! IF I DROPPED IT-SHE HAS FOUND IT! I'LL HAVE DER GERMAN AGENTS SCOUR DER CITY FOR HER.



I'LL GIVE ORDERS TO SHOOT HER ON SIGHT-AS A SPY! IN THAT VAY, SHE CAN'T TALK IN CASE SHE READ DER PAPER!

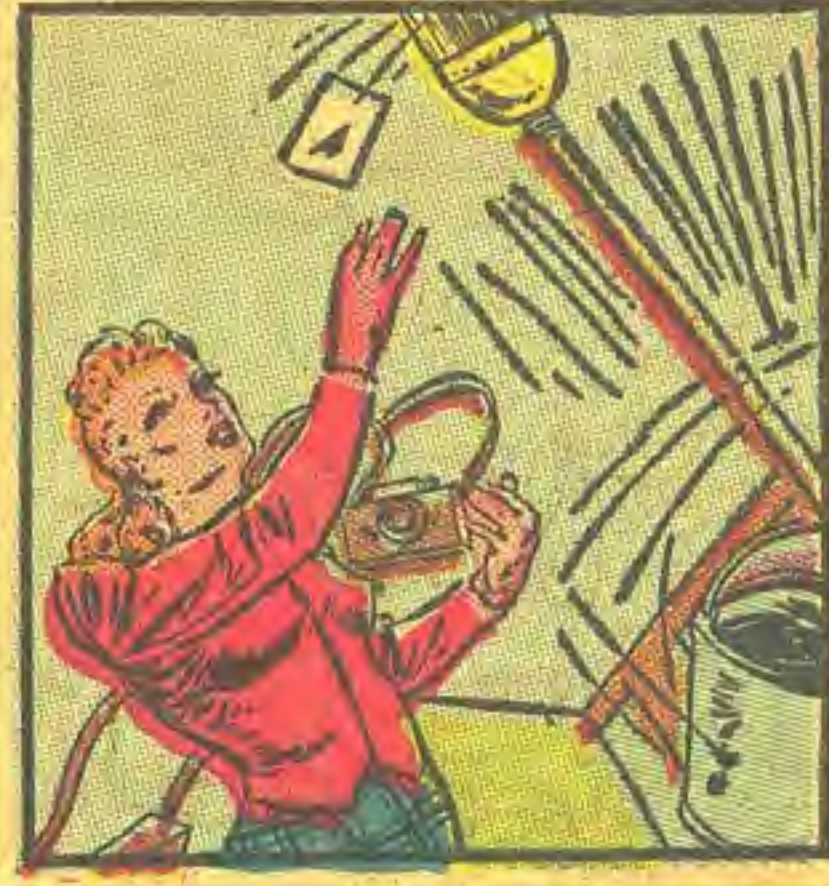
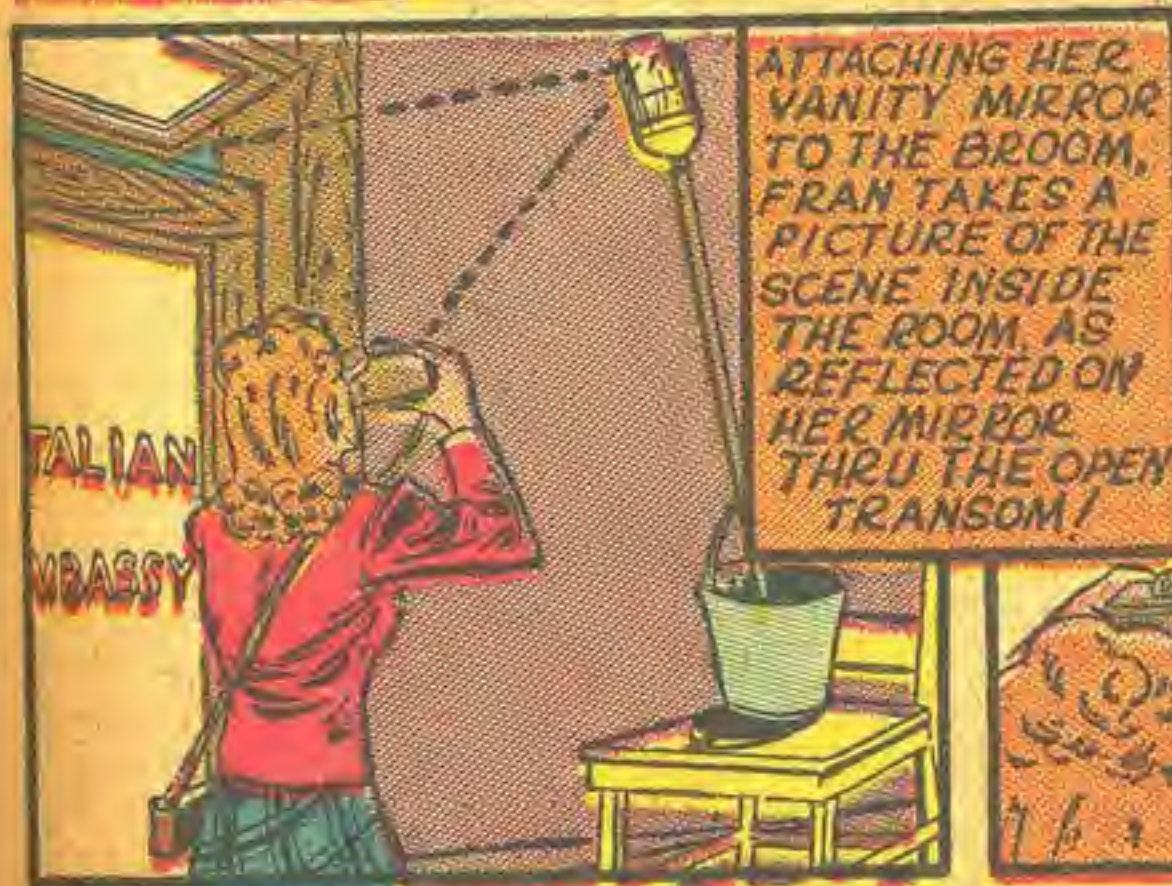


FOLLOW ME! WE SHALL VARN DER ITALIAN EMBASSY TO BE ON DER LOOKOUT FOR HER!



SEVERAL MINUTES LATER....

ITALIA EMBA



FRAN RUSHES TO THE MOSCOGRAD
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE....



I- I
BEG
YOUR
PARDON?

I MUST SEE THE CHIEF
OF STAFF. IT IS A
MATTER OF VITAL IM-
PORTANCE.

THE GIRL PHOTOGRAPH-
ER IS USHERED INTO
THE PRESENCE OF THE
WORLD FAMOUS
"HITWUNOFF"....



MISS FRAZER! THIS IS
A BOMBSHELL THAT
BREAKS UP OUR CON-
FERENCE WITH THE
AXIS POWERS! YOU
HAVE SAVED MOSCO-
GRAD FROM SERIOUS
INTERNATIONAL
COMPLICATIONS!



FOR YOUR INFORMATION-
I WISH TO ANNOUNCE AN
IMMEDIATE CONFERENCE
WITH THE ENGLISH AMBASS-
ADOR! AND THE MOSCOGRAD
SECRET POLICE WILL ESCORT
YOU SAFELY, WHEREVER YOU
WISH TO GO!



AS FRAN LEAVES THE
COMMISSAR OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS....

IT IS
SHE!
SO SORRY!
MUST
KILL!



DER PAPER!
WHERE
IST?

SPEAK
QUICK!



IN AN INSTANT, THE AXIS REP-
PRESENTATIVES ARE SURR-
OUNDED BY SECRET POLICE!



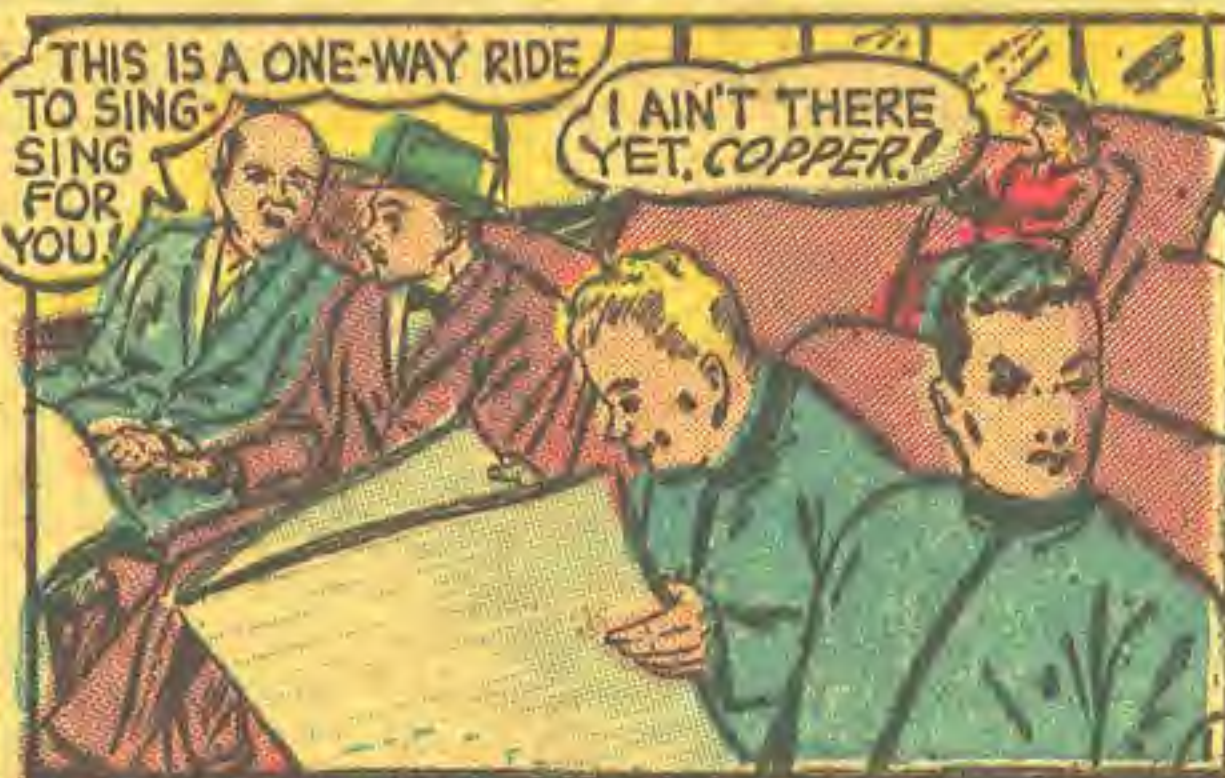
THANKS FOR THE SCOOP!
YOU'LL FIND THE PAPER YOU'RE
AFTER IN HITWUNOFF'S OFFICE
AND IF YOU WANT THE INSIDE
STORY-- GET A COPY OF "STRIFE"
SO LONG, BOYS!



COVER THE NEWS FRONT
OF WARRING EUROPE
WITH FRAN FRAZER IN
THE NEXT ISSUE OF
TOP NOTCH COMICS.

KEITH KORNELL

WEST-POINT



THIS IS ONE RAP YOU WON'T ESCAPE, LOUIE! YOU'LL GET THE HOT SQUAT FOR THAT LAST MURDER!

HAW HAW! THE JAIL AIN'T BUILT THAT CAN HOLD LOUIS ZORILLI!

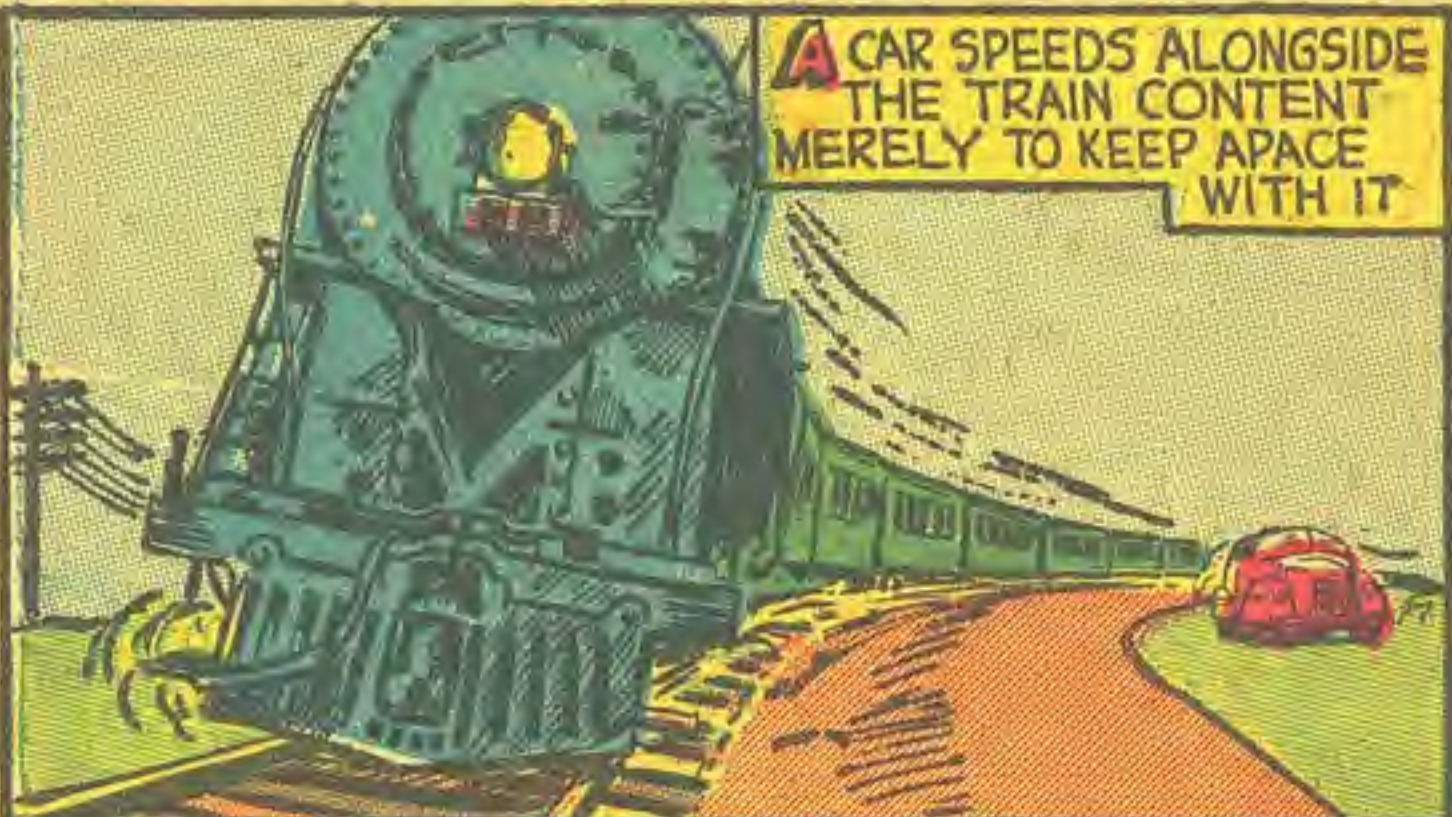


I'M GONNA GRAB A DRINK, TUBBY!

OKAY, KEITH!



A CAR SPEEDS ALONGSIDE THE TRAIN CONTENT MERELY TO KEEP APACE WITH IT



KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THE WHITE HANDKERCHIEF, BOYS! LOUIE SAID HE'D WAVE IT!



WHAT'RE YA DOIN' WITH THAT HANDKERCHIEF, ZORILLI?

THERE AIN'T NO LAW AGAINST SNEEZIN', COPPER. I GOT A COLD!



THERE'S THE HANDKERCHIEF. THIRD WINDOW FROM THE LEFT! LET HIM HAVE IT!

YEAH! I CAN SEE THE COPPER GOOD TOO!



ZORILLI SUDDENLY JERKS HIS HEAD BACK. A HAIL OF BULLETS COME THROUGH THE WINDOW

THEY GOT THE COPPER. THE BOYS WORKED IT PERFECT!

HELP!



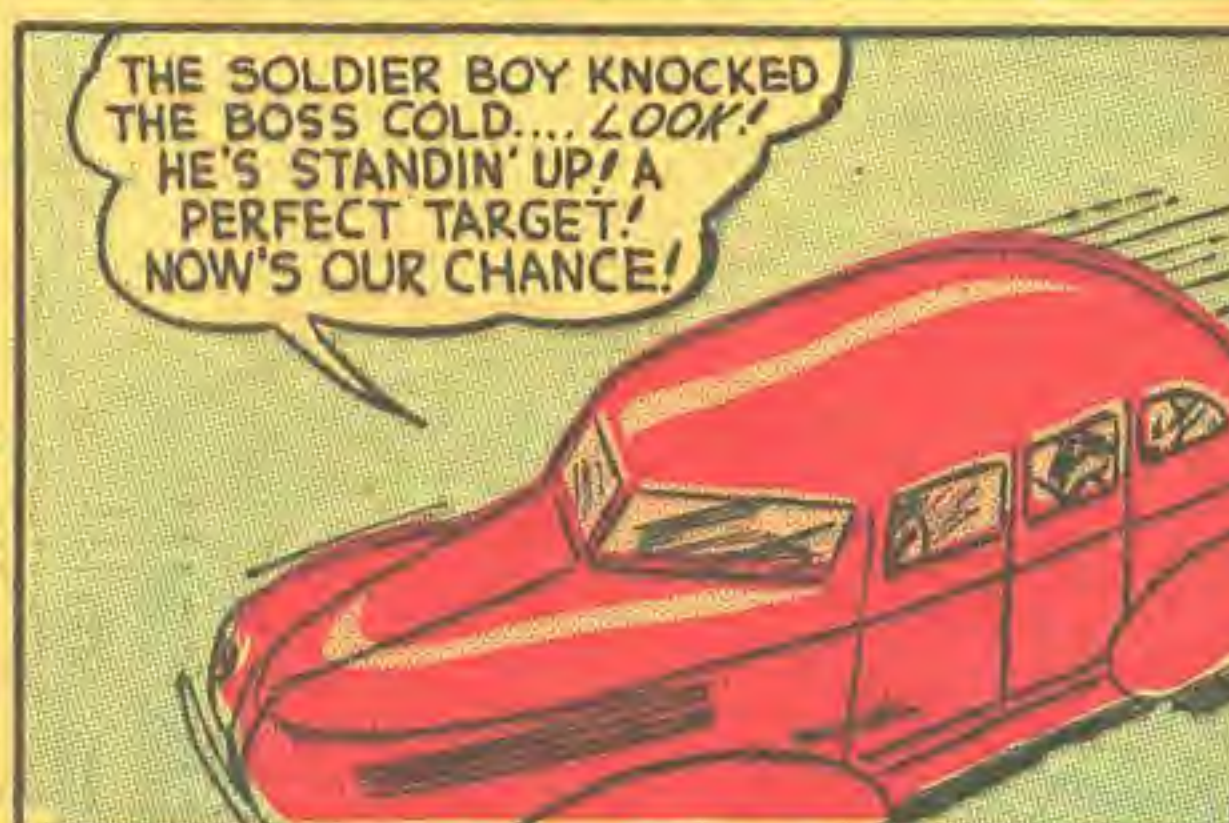
THE GANGSTER GRABS THE DETECTIVE'S GUN

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, EVERYBODY! EXCEPT YOU, SOLDIER BOY, C'MERE!

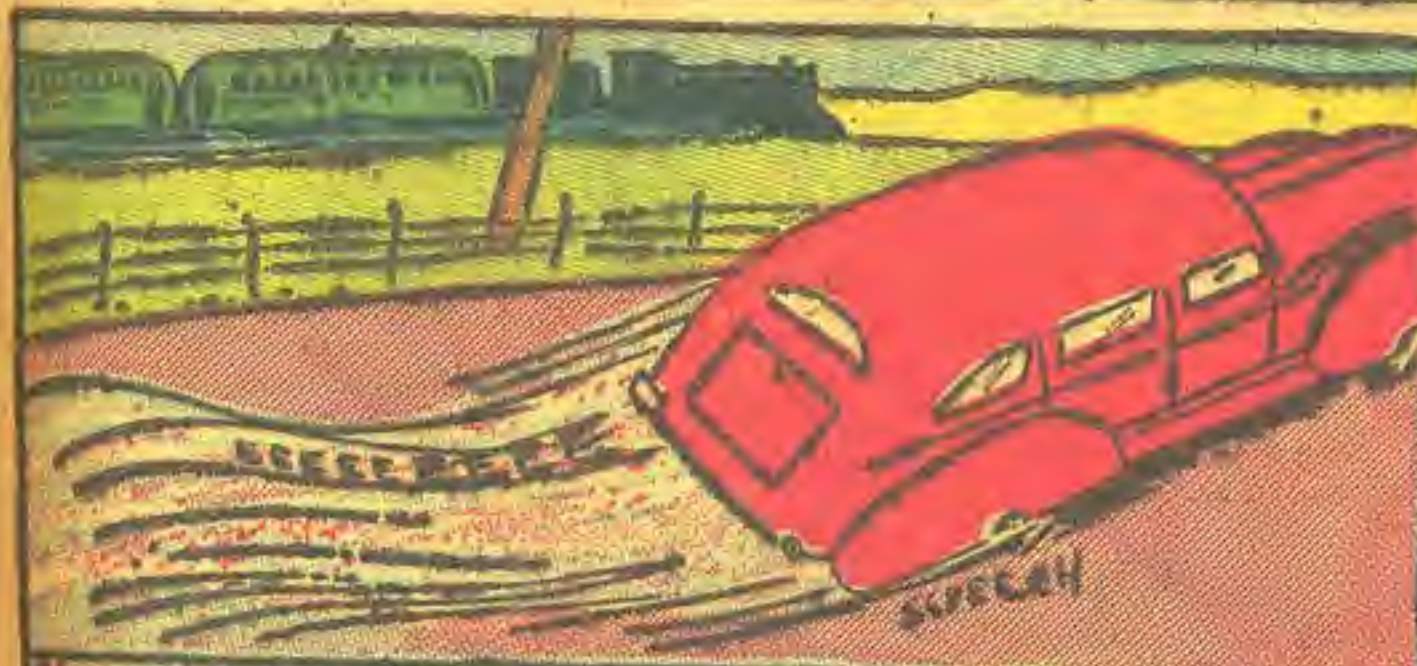
WH....WHO...







KEITH'S LIFE IS SAVED BY THE PITCHING OF THE TRAIN WHICH SPOILS THE AIM OF THE GANGSTERS



KEITH'S BULLETS FIND THEIR MARK IN THE GANGSTER'S TIRES—A BLOW-OUT—AND THE CAR CAREENS CRAZILY ALONG THE ROAD.



KEITH KORNELL, WEST POINTER, APPEARS IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS

THE FIREFLY



IT IS MIDNIGHT—A GRIM-EEIE FIGURE STALKS THROUGH A GRAVEYARD—THE MUMMY

SWIFTLY, THE MUMMY ACCOMPLISHES HIS GHOULISH MISSION

THIS WILL BE THE LAST CORPSE FOR TONIGHT.



THE MONSTER OF CRIME WENDS HIS WAY THROUGH THE GRAVEYARD.

THERE'VE BEEN TOO MANY GRAVE ROBBERIES LATELY AND THE FIREFLY IS GOING TO DO SOME CHECKING... WHAT'S THAT FIGURE BELOW?



WHILE CIRCLING LOW ABOVE, IS THE GLEAMING AIRPLANE OF THE FIREFLY—THE FIREFLYER

GOOD GOSH! IT'S THE MUMMY!
I WOULD HAVE STAKED MY LIFE
HE WAS DEAD..... I'LL
FOLLOW HIM!



THE MUMMY ENTERS HIS LAIR—A MAUSOLEUM IN THE GRAVEYARD

HA! MY LEGION OF
LIVE CORPSES. WAITING
FOR YOUR MASTER, EH!

HOME!

HOME!

HOME!



CURSE THEM! ALL THEY DO IS
CHANT FOR THEIR HOMES. I
SHALL INJECT TWICE AS
MUCH BLOOD INTO THIS
CORPSE. PERHAPS IT WILL
THEN BE MORE LOYAL TO
THE MUMMY!



A GLOWING FIGURE SWOOPS
INTO THE MUMMY'S LAIR

THE FIREFLY!



THE MUMMY AND HIS MORTAL
FOE, THE FIREFLY, ONCE
AGAIN COME TO DEATH
GRIPS

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT FIENDISH TRICK
YOU'RE UP TO NOW, BUT
I'M GOING TO.....



A LITTLE HIGH ON THAT
TACKLE, MUMMY... NOW GO
TAKE YOURSELF A NAP!



A FURTIVE NOISE AT THE DOOR
CAUSES THE FIREFLY TO SWING
ABOUT

WOW! THOSE THINGS! THEY'RE
WALKING CORPSES.... AND
THEY'RE ESCAPING!



THE MUMMY TAKES AD-
VANTAGE OF HIS FOE'S
DISTRACTION

BLAST YOU, FIREFLY!
BLAST YOU! TAKE
THAT!





JOAN BURTON, REPORTER, THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE *FIREFLY*'S TRUE IDENTITY.

IT'S LATE AND I'M TIRED, BUT I MUST GET THIS STORY OUT!



FIREFLY! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE!

NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, JOAN. THE *MUMMY* IS AT WORK AGAIN!



THE *FIREFLY* EXPLAINS THE WHOLE HORRIBLE STORY.

AND SO YOU MUST PUT OUT AN EXTRA TELLING THESE FAMILIES TO GO TO THE JAIL. THEY'LL BE SAFE THERE. NOTIFY THE POLICE, ALSO!

I'LL DO IT!



YOU'RE NOT SAFE EITHER, WITH THE *MUMMY* AT LARGE! DON'T MOVE FROM THIS OFFICE, I'LL BE BACK SOON!



I'LL BE SAFE! HURRY, *FIREFLY*!

THE POLICE RECEIVE JOAN'S CALL

WHAT! CORPSES MURDERING THEIR OWN FAMILIES? ARE YOU NUTS? GO ON TO BED AND SLEEP IT OFF.... OH, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... BUT, IF THIS IS A GAG —



THAT GIRL REPORTER HASN'T GIVEN US A BUM STEER YET. THE WHOLE THING SOUNDS WHACKY BUT WE BETTER PLAY SAFE AND DO LIKE SHE SAYS!

RIGHT, CHIEF!



DAILY STAR
LIVE CORPSES ON THE LOOSE.
2 MURDERED ALREADY



WUXTRY, WUXTRY!

CALLING ALL CARS! GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE FOLLOWING HOMES

ETC....ETC...



FLASH! THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES WILL RUN IMMEDIATELY TO THE COUNTY JAIL. HURRY, YOUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER. ETC...ETC..!



OH! MY NAME WAS MENTIONED!

THE JAIL HOUSE BECOMES A SCENE OF PANIC STRICKEN ACTIVITY. FAMILIES FROM ALL OVER THE CITY FLOCK TO IT FOR PROTECTION...



WHAT'S THE MATTER, MA? HUH?

HURRY, TOMMY!

LEMME IN!



WHILE THE GLOWING FIGURE OF JUSTICE SPEEDS THROUGH THE NIGHT ACCOMPLISHING HIS GRISLY TASK.

SIRENS SHRILL THRU THE CITY STREETS, AS POLICE CARS HURTLE TOWARD THE CORPSES' HOMES.



IN ONE OF THEM



LOOK, JOE! IT'S THE CORPSE ALL RIGHT!

BLOOD! BLOOD!

WHO COULDA STRUNG IT UP THAT WAY?

AT ANOTHER HOME—



NO SIGN OF A CORPSE! THE HOUSE IS EMPTY!

LOOK, THE HAMPER! IT'S MOVING!

OPEN IT! I GOT IT COVERED!

THERE IT IS! THE LAST OF THEM! WRAPPED UP AND WAITING FOR US! WHOEVER IT WAS THAT BEAT US TO THESE HOUSES SURE DID A JOB.

ONLY ONE GUY COULDA DONE IT—THE FIREFLY!



BLOOD, BLOOD!

MEANWHILE JOAN AWAITS THE FIREFLY'S RETURN

I WISH HE'D COME SOON! WITH THE MUMMY AT LARGE, I'M FRANKLY SCARED!



A SUDDEN RATTLE AT THE WINDOW—AND THE FRIGHTFUL FIGURE OF THE MUMMY

HA, HA! SO YOU ARE FRIGHTENED OF THE MUMMY, EHP?

HELP!

GOOD! SHE'S FAINTED! SHE'LL BE LESS TROUBLE-SOME!



JOAN! JOAN! SHE'S GONE! THERE ARE SIGNS OF STRUGGLE! THE MUMMY MUST HAVE BEEN HERE!



HE WANTS JOAN FOR HIS QUEEN IN THE NEW DYNASTY HE INTENDS TO ESTABLISH. HE'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE MUSEUM TO GET THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CROWN AND THAT'S WHERE THE FIREFLY IS GOING, TOO!



THE FIREFLY HAS GUESSED RIGHT—LATER AT THE MUSEUM



THE MUMMY!

YES, THE MUMMY! UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU!

STAND BACK! STAND BACK, I TELL YOU!

BANG! BANG!



THE GUARD PAYS WITH HIS LIFE FOR HIS BRAVERY. ON HIS FOREHEAD THE MARK OF THE MUMMY—A BEETLE





BUT THE *FIREFLY* HAS ANOTHER TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE. AN UPWARD KICK, AND.....



...THE BAND-AGED RELIC HURTLES BACKWARD LIKE A SHOT FROM A PROJECTILE



AGAIN THE *MUMMY* RUNS, BUT THIS TIME.....

I'LL JUST BORROW THIS BOW AND ARROW FROM ONE OF THESE MUSEUM INDIANS.



THE ARROW PINS THE *MUM-* MY TO THE WALL

HAVE YOURSELF A NAP, *MUMMY*!

UGH!



THE *FIREFLY* RETURNS TO THE WAITING JOAN

FIREFLY! YOU'VE CAPTURED HIM AT LAST!

YES! AND THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE HE DOES NOT PLAGUE US AGAIN!



SEE! THEY'RE DIGGING UP THE STREET, AND A CEMENT MIXER IS THERE! I'LL FIX UP A COFFIN FOR THE *MUMMY* THAT HE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF!



THERE! NOW WHEN THE CEMENT HARDENS, WE'LL TAKE THE CAKE DOWN TO THE RIVER!



THE *FIREFLY*'S MIGHTY MUSCLES BULGE WITH THE STRAIN OF THE DEAD WEIGHT

UGH! IT'S HEAVY! BUT I CAN MAKE IT!



AND THAT'S THE LAST OF THE *MUMMY*!

HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THIS GRAVE!



THE *FIREFLY* MEETS UP WITH HIS MOST WORTHY OPPONENT YET, "BULLET-HEAD" IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS!



SPORTS

Tribune

THE ST. LOUIS KID K.



OUR STORY BEGINS IN CHICAGO. OUR HERO IS JIM JENNINGS, A TRUCK DRIVER, BRED IN THE SLUMS OF ST. LOUIS WHERE HE HAD TO TALK WITH HIS FISTS, OR ELSE! A SCRAPPER TO THE BONE IS THE ST. LOUIS KID. BUT A SQUARE SHOOTER AND A REGULAR GUY.

BY HARRY SHORTEN AND LIN. STREETER



HERE WE SEE THE ST. LOUIS KID WITH HIS FUTURE MANAGER, WINDY MILL, AND THE GIRL HE THINKS HE LOVES, FLOSSIE

A FREIGHT TRUCK PULLS INTO THE YARDS AFTER A LONG HAUL



OKAY, JOE, I'LL CHECK IN!



YEAH, JIM! I'LL PARK THE LOAD!

OTHER TRUCKS ROLL INTO THE YARD



THAT PUNK IS BLOCKIN' THE WAY. I'LL FIX HIM!

HEY, BEEF! WHATSA IDEA?



CLAM UP, SQUIRT! BEEF MC GLOWN DOES WHAT HE WANTS AROUND HERE!







MEANWHILE—AT A LOCAL ARENA

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BOY, IKE. HE MUSTA TAKEN A RUNOUT.

WHAT? HE'S SUPPOSED TO FIGHT IN FIVE MINUTES, WINDY! THE CROWD'LL TEAR THIS PLACE DOWN!



HELLO, MR. MILL! THE GIRL IN YOUR OFFICE TOLD ME I'D FIND YOU HERE!



HEY! YOU'RE THAT TRUCK DRIVER. CHANGED YOUR MIND, HUH? READY TO FIGHT RIGHT AWAY?

THE SOONER THE BETTER, MR. MILL!



OKAY! GET INTO YOUR TRUNKS! BUT I WARN YOU, YOU'RE FIGHTIN' A TOUGH BABY!



HE DON'T SCARE ME!

WINDY! YOU CAN'T DO IT! WE GOTTA TAKE OUR BUTCHER BELL WILL MURDER THIS BOY!

CHANCES, IKE! THE KID WILL PROBABLY BE KAYOED IN A HURRY AND HE WON'T BE HURT BAD!



THE FIGHT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

BREAK CLEAN! NO PUNCHING ON THE BREAK!

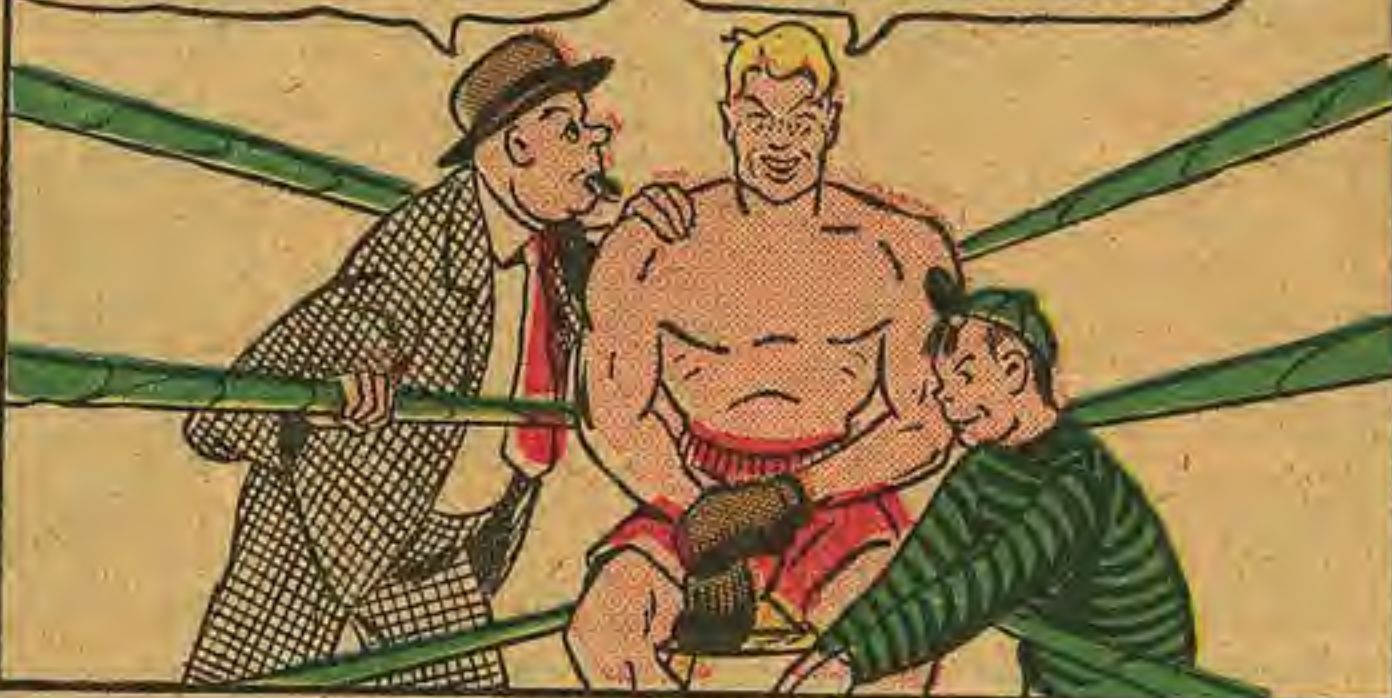


HAW, HAW! HERE'S WHERE YOU GET YOURS, PUNK!

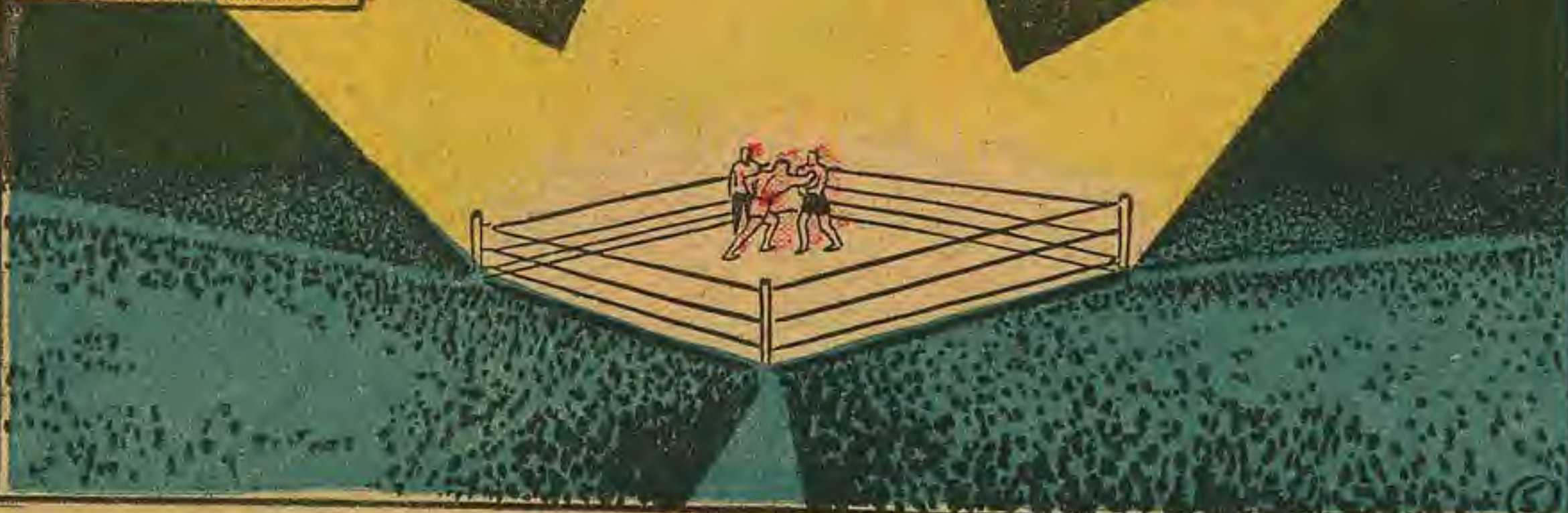
WHO'S A PUNK, YA BIG BLUB-BERHEAD?

NOW KEEP AWAY FROM HIM, JIM! HE'S GOT A MURDEROUS RIGHT, AND...

DON'T WORRY, MR. MILL! HE'S FAT BETWEEN THE EARS! I'LL HANDLE HIM OKAY!



THE FIGHT IS ON



THE BUTCHER'S RIGHT FLASHES THROUGH
IN A MURDEROUS ARC.



-AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE FIGHT.



THE FANS' REMARKS
PIERCE THROUGH
THE ST. LOUIS KID'S
BEFOGGED BRAIN,
AND HE GETS UP,
SPITTING
BLOOD.



5-6-7... AW, WHAT'S
THE USE OF COUNTIN'.
HE'S OUT
COLDER
THAN AN
ESKIMO
IGLOO!



WHAT A WALLOP! I
NEVER SEEN NUTTIN'
LIKE IT! WHERE
YOU FROM, JIM?



IS THE ST. LOUIS KID A CHAMP IN THE
MAKING? WILL WINDY MILL KEEP HIS PROM-
ISE? YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWERS IN ONLY
ONE MAGAZINE - TOP NOTCH!

WINGS JOHNSON OF THE AIR PATROL

WINGS JOHNSON, AMERICAN YOUTH, JOINED THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN ITS BATTLE TO DEATH WITH INVADING GERMANS. HE AND HIS PAL HENRY HIGGINS, ARE ON THEIR WAY TO AN AIR-DROME AT AN IMPORTANT NAVAL BASE.



IN WINGS' COMPARTMENT.

HENRY! LISTEN!
IT'S AN AIR
RAID!

I WONDER
WHO THEY'RE
ATTACKIN'
WINGSIE?



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN - YOU
WONDER WHO
THEY'RE
ATTACKING?

LORD LOVE A
DUCK! IT'S
US THEY'RE
AFTER!



A
BOMBER
MAKES A
DIRECT
HIT ON THE
ENGINE!



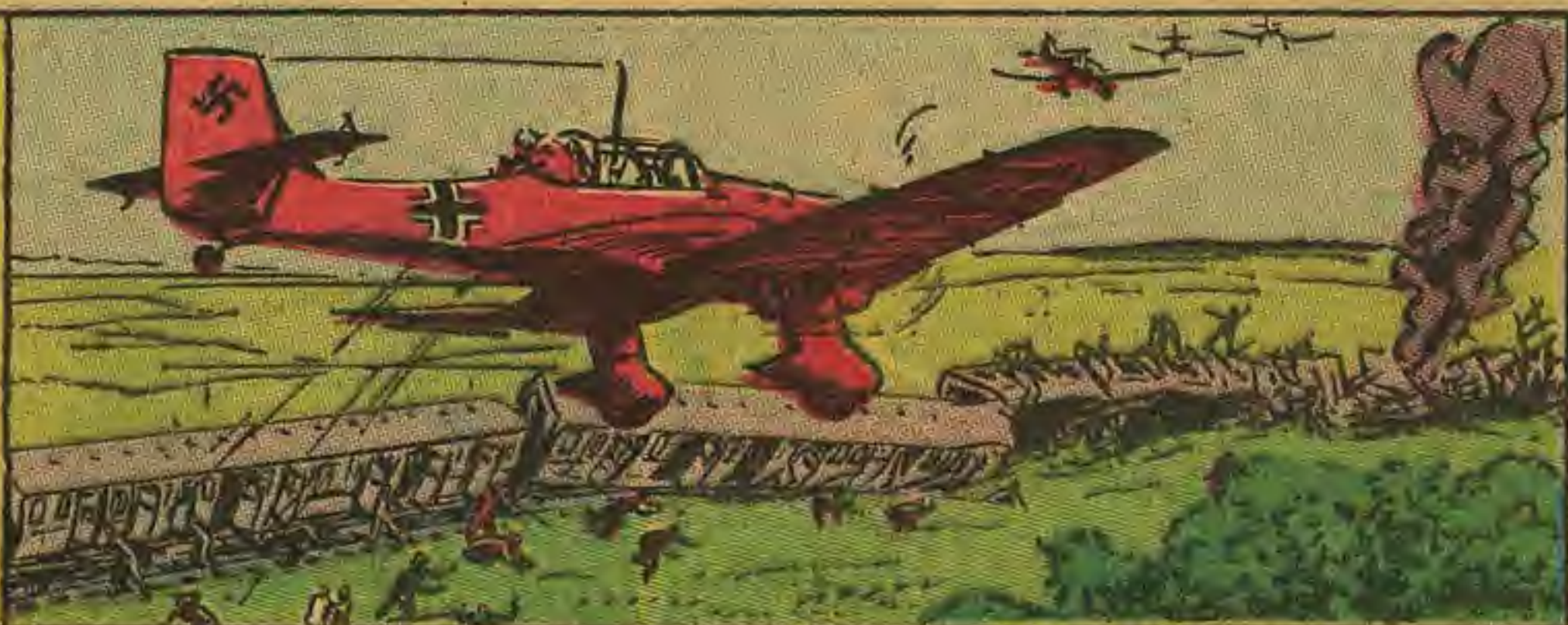


WE'VE STOPPED,
HENRY! COME
ON!



BY JOVE, WINGSIE! LET'S GET UP
THERE AND
SEE WHAT WE
CAN SEE!
THE BLOOMIN'
H'ENGINE'S
BEEN
IT

A
NAZI
ATTEMPTS
TO
MACHINE-
GUN
THE
PASS-
ENGERS!



WHY, THAT
YELLOW-
BELLIED...
H'IT'S GIT-
TIN' SO A
BLOKE HAIN'T
SAFE EVEN
H'ON A
CHOO-CHOO?



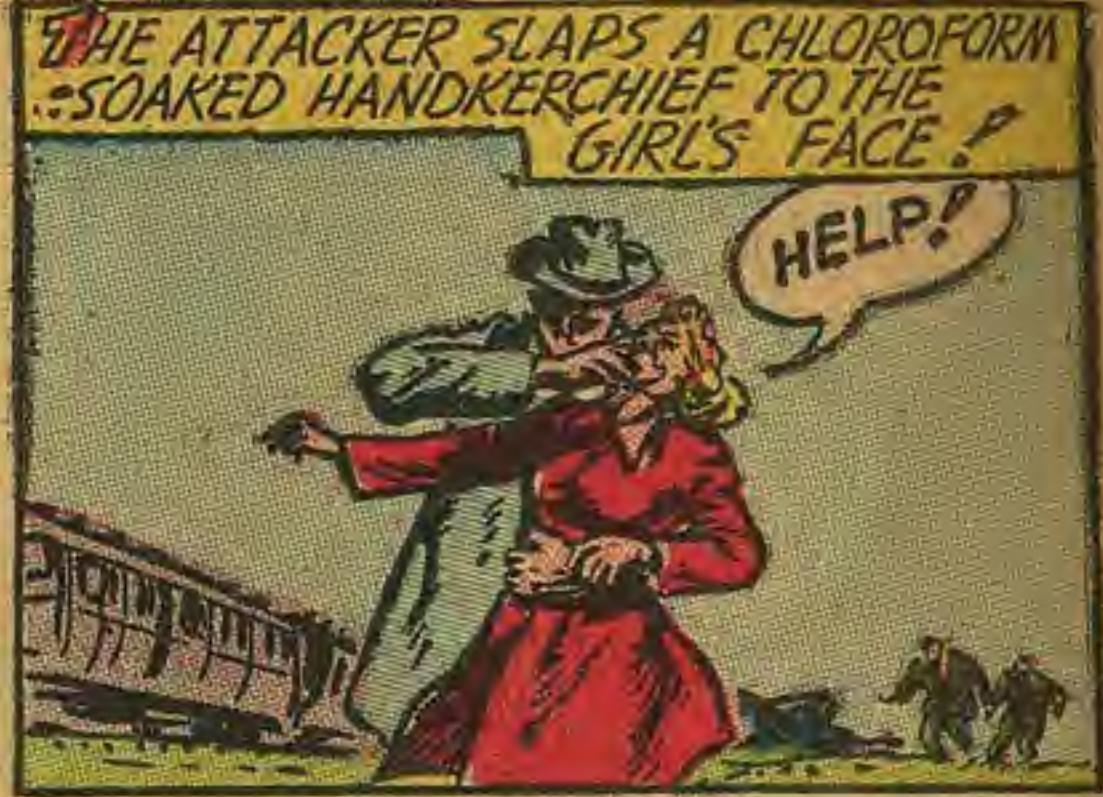
THEY SURE
MADE SARDINE
CANS OUT OF
THIS ENGINE?
BLIMEY! AND
THEY WANTED TO
MAKE SARDINES
OUT OF US!



CARRYING SOME-
THING VALUABLE
ON THIS
TRAIN?
WHAT D'YA MEAN,
WINGSIE? WE WAS
ON H'IT HAIN'T THAT
ENOUGH?



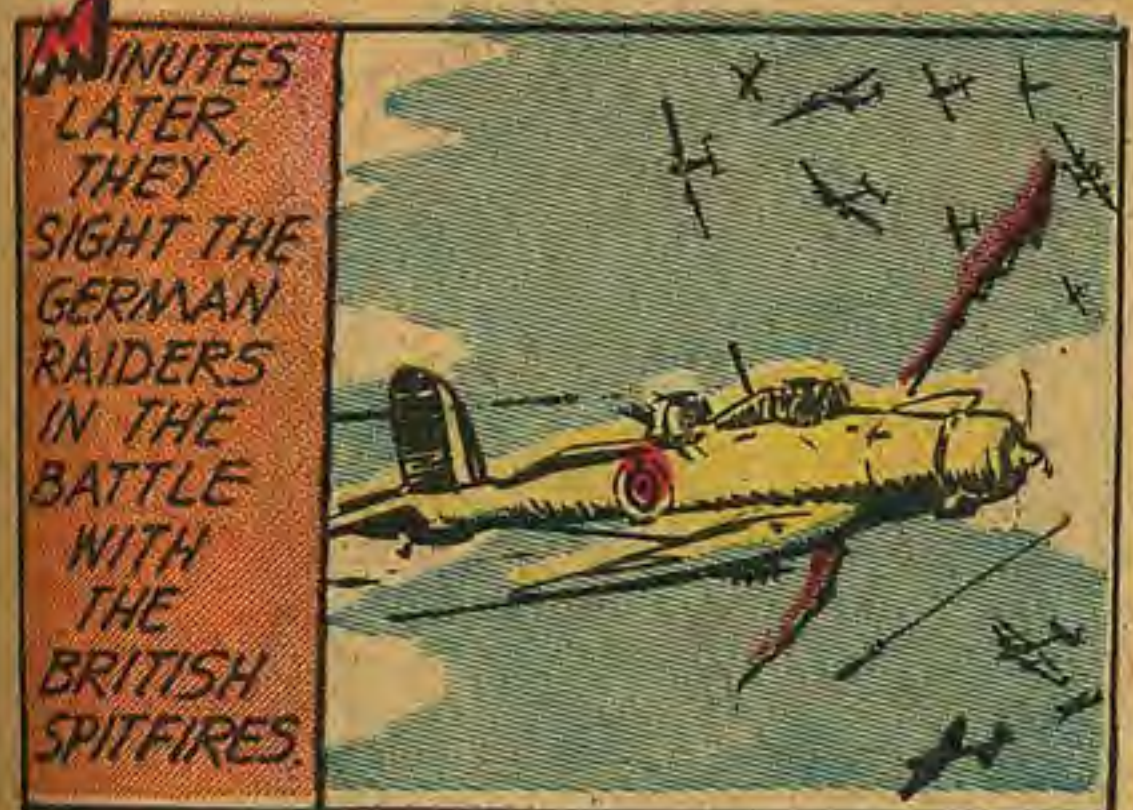
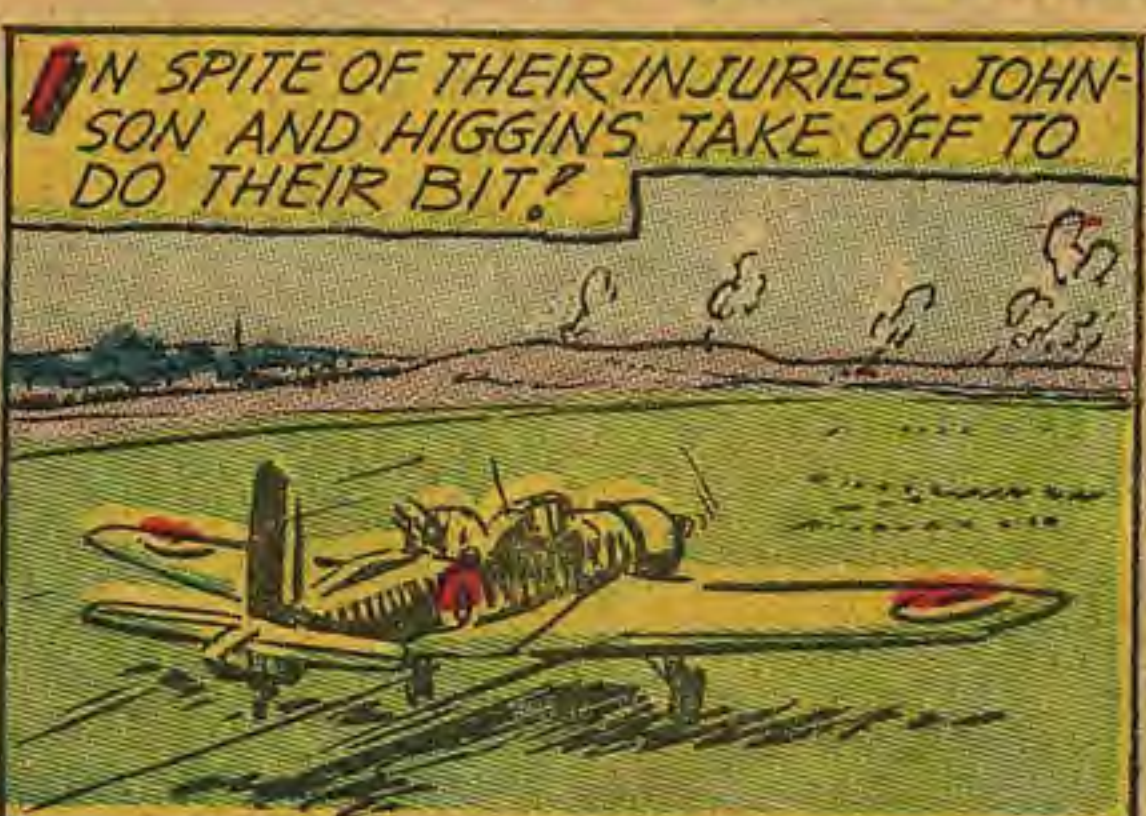
WHY, YES-WE HAVE ONE OF
THE NAVAL COMMANDERS
ON BOARD! THERE HE IS NOW!
HEY! LOOK! HE'S BE-
ING ATTACKED!



HENRY'S
BULLET
GOES
ASTRAY
AND
CLIPS
WINGS
ON
THE
LEG!

AS
WINGS
FALLS,
THE
MYSTER-
IOUS
ATTACK-
ER
MAKES
HIS
ESCAPE!





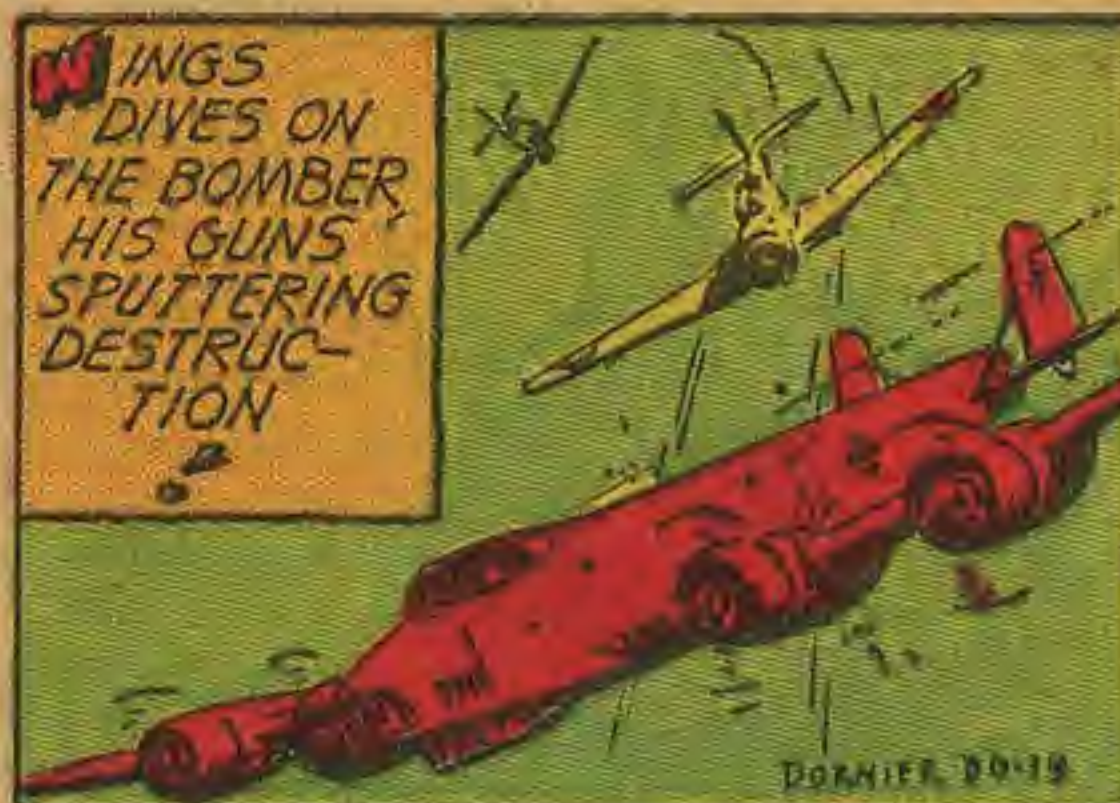
THE SKIES BECOME A BATTLE-TORN INFERNO AS WINGS AND HENRY BLAST A DORNIER D.O. 17 TO ETERNITY!



HEY! ONE OF THOSE NAZI BOMBERS IS GETTING AWAY TOWARD THE NAVAL BASE! LET'S GET HIM!



WINGS DIVES ON THE BOMBER, HIS GUNS SPUTTERING DESTRUCTION!



BUT A BRITISH HURRICANE SUDDENLY ATTACKS JOHNSON'S SHIP.



WINGS REFUSES TO FIRE ON A BRITISH PLANE, AND HIS OWN SHIP IS HIT BY THE SLUGS FROM THE HURRICANE!





WINGS AND HENRY BAIL OUT!



THEY LAND SAFELY NEAR THE NAVAL BASE.



DID ANYBODY SEE WHO BROUGHT US DOWN?

NO! WHY?

BLIGH ME! IT WAS A HURR -



IT WAS A HURRICANE, WERE YOU SAYING?

NO! HE WAS JUST GOING TO SAY IT WAS ONE OF HERR GOERING'S SHIPS!... TAKE ME TO THE C.O.



WINGS AND HENRY ARE TAKEN TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE NAVAL BASE.

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR! BUT HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU BEFORE?

YES! I WAS ATTACKED BY A SPY ON THE TRAIN. YOU AN' HIGGINS HERE TRIED TO CATCH THE CULPRIT?



WELL, EVIDENTLY, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE SPY AROUND HERE! WE WERE JUST SHOT DOWN BY A BRITISH HURRICANE WHEN WE TRIED TO ATTACK A GERMAN BOMBER!



I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU THAT THAT'S WHY YOU TWO WERE TRANSFERRED HERE! SOMEONE IS TIPPING OFF THE RAIDERS TO EVERYTHING WE DO!



H'I MUST SAY WE 'AVEN'T MADE A VERY GOOD START!

BUT WE MUST CATCH THEM! IF WE DON'T, IT MAY GIVE HITLER THE OPENING HE WANTS TO START AN INVASION!

WINGS JOHNSON AND HIS PAL ARE IN THE THICK OF A SPY PLOT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS.



BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD





THE POLICE CARS BREAK THE CONNECTING LIGHT BEAMS, AND..



BOB PHANTOM IS FORCED TO LEAVE THE THIEVES TO GO TO THE AID OF THE POLICE...



LOOK! IT'S THAT PHANTOM GUY! HE'S DETOURIN' THE REST OF THEM COP'S CARS!

WE DID ENOUGH DAMAGE!! LET'S SCRAM!!

TSK, TSK!! SUCH LANGUAGE FROM AN OFFICER OF THE LAW!

LOOK! IT'S THAT PHANTOM GUY! HE'S DETOURIN' THE REST OF THEM COP'S CARS!

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WELL, THEY OUT-SMARTED ME THAT TIME... MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY!!

PAGE FIFTEEN

[illegible][illegible]

LATER, IN WHITNEY'S APARTMENT.

THAT RAY! I SEEM TO REMEMBER IT FROM SOMEWHERE! LET ME THINK...

A man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit and a red tie, is seated in a plush red armchair. He is leaning forward with his right hand resting on his chin, appearing to be in deep thought. The background is a simple, light-colored wall. To the left, a portion of a wooden door or cabinet is visible. The overall style is that of a classic comic book illustration.

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NEXT DAY, WHITNEY HUNTS THROUGH THE NEWSPAPER FILES....

HOLY CATS!
I'VE GOT
IT!!

A man in a dark suit and tie is shown from the waist up, looking intently at a newspaper clipping he is holding. He is standing in front of a large filing cabinet with many drawers. The background is a solid yellow color. The man has a surprised expression on his face.

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WALT PULLS UP AT THE PROFESSOR'S DOOR...

1109 DIVISION ST., THE FILES SAID... HERE IT IS.

WALT PULLS UP AT THE PROFESSOR'S DOOR...

1109 DIVISION ST., THE FILES SAID... HERE IT IS.

HELLO, PROFESSOR EHRET... I'M A NEWSPAPERMAN! I'D LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU ON THAT LIGHT BEAM INVENTION....

WHY... ER... YES!..... COME RIGHT IN!!

2

HELLO, PROFESSOR EHRET... I'M A NEWSPAPERMAN! I'D LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU ON THAT LIGHT BEAM INVENTION....

WHY... ER... YES!..... COME RIGHT IN!!



THIS IS MY CONTRAPTION. HERE, SIT DOWN... I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.

SURE, THANKS!

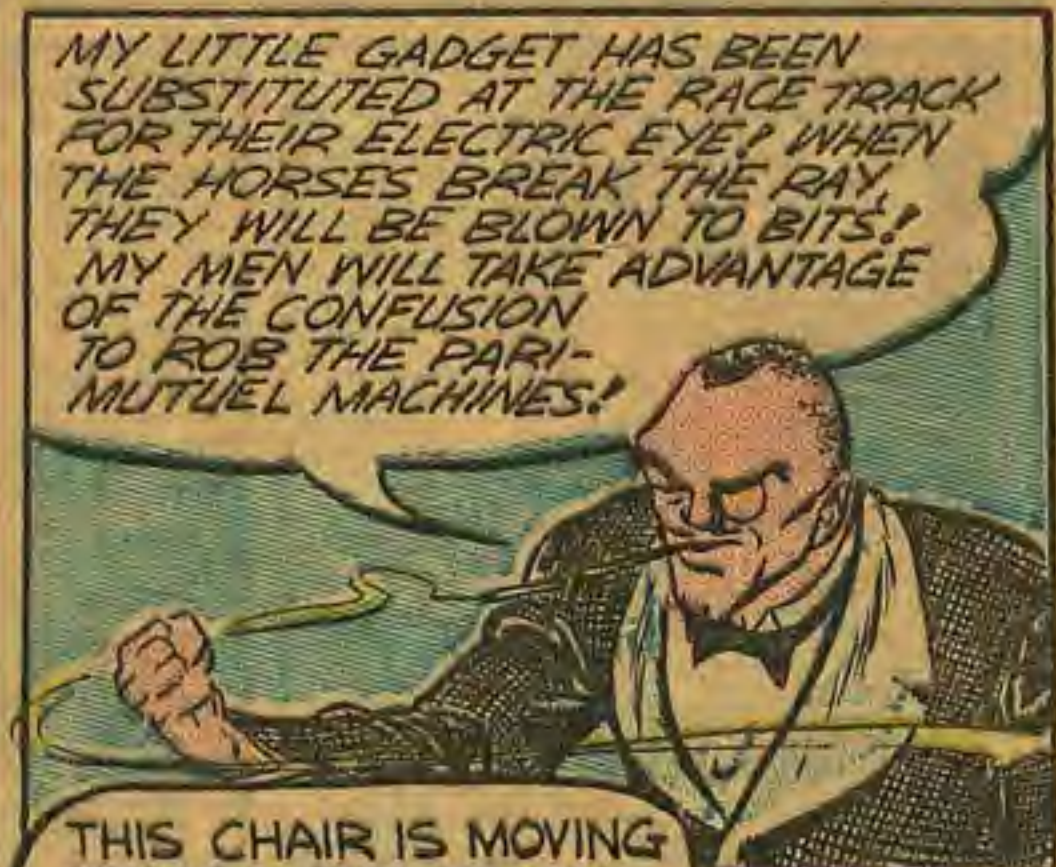


HA! HA! I THOUGHT I DIDN'T SUSPECT YOU, EH?

BOY! AM I A SUCKER!



YOUR COUNTRY SCOFFED AT MY INVENTION! LET THEM SCOFF NOW! I SHALL REAP MILLIONS FROM IT... IN MY OWN WAY!!



MY LITTLE GADGET HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED AT THE RACE TRACK FOR THEIR ELECTRIC EYE! WHEN THE HORSES BREAK THE RAY, THEY WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS! MY MEN WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION TO ROB THE PARIMUTUEL MACHINES!

THIS CHAIR IS MOVING TOWARD THE BEAM! IF I CAN ONLY BREAK THE BACK OF THIS CHAIR.....



YOU CAN CARRY THAT KNOWLEDGE TO YOUR GRAVE! GOODBYE, MR. WHITNEY!



UGH! I DID IT!... AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!



SO THEY'RE GOING TO ROB THE PARIMUTUELS... THEY'LL GET AWAY WITH IT TOO - UNLESS BOB PHANTOM STEPS IN!

AT THE RACE TRACK...THE PARI-MUTUEL BETTING MACHINE HAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY DAY....



PROFESSOR EHRET BREAKS
HIS OWN BEAM BEFORE
THE HORSES CAN REACH IT!



THE EXPLOSION!
THAT'S THE
SIGNAL! LET'S
GO, BOYS!



ALL RIGHT!
GET THAT
DOUGH UP!
AND NO
'SQUANKS!



HI YA,
GANG!
REMEM-
BER ME!



MY SPECIALTY'S FUM-
IGATING VERMIN
LIKE
YOU!!



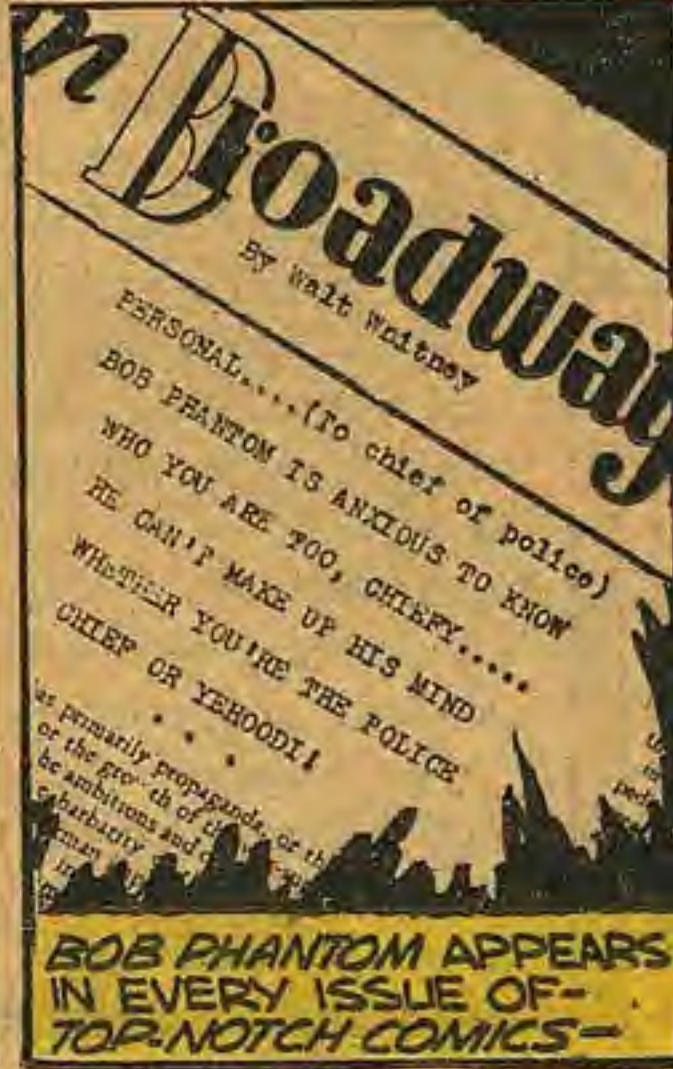
OH, OH! HERE COME
THE POLICE! I GUESS
THEY CAN PICK UP
FROM
HERE!



NEXT DAY, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

YOU KNOW WHO
BOB PHANTOM
REALLY IS -
NOW COME
CLEAN!!

WELL, READ
MY COLUMN
TOMORROW,
CHIEF - IF
YOU CAN READ!





SPORTS SLANTS

HERE'S MUD IN YOUR EYE

THE NEXT big innovation in eastern wrestling circles will be the introduction of grappling—ala gooney. In other words, exhibition catch as catch can—in mud.

In a desperate attempt to instill some animation in a sport that is sinking farther and farther into the doldrums, the mat moguls east of the Mississippi are ready to try anything that will rejuvenate cash registers at eastern grappleatoriums, which are dying for lack of use.

Although it will be a novelty in the East, mud-mauling has been tried with great success in the South.

The ring is completely filled with mud, one foot thick, and the boys wallow in it, as though to the manner born. It's quite a novelty, and may take in the effete East, although we have our doubts.

When, and if you should decide to attend one of these mad, mud, malarkeys, please heed the following warning—"Don't sit ringside, or you'll go home so full of splattered mud, it will take a platoon of men, working with shovels, an hour, to get you back to your normal weight."

Just honor one of these wet dirt picnics with your presence and the famous expression—"Here's mud in your eye" will become a stark reality.

HERE IT IS

**THE NEW
NO.2 ISSUE
OF YOUR
FAVORITE MAGAZINE**



**LOOK
FOR
Tommy
THE
SUPER
BOY!**

**ALL
NEW!
ALL
DIFFERENT
ON SALE AT ALL NEWSTANDS**

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC
MAGICIAN



KARDAK,
HELP!

MASTER! LOOK!
COMET SWEEPING DOWN
AT US!

AFTER MANY FANTASTIC ADVENTURES,
KARDAK, LORNA, AND BALTHAR ARE
ABOUT TO REACH THE LAND OF THE
MASTER BRAHMINS, IN THE MOST BIZARRE,
MOST PERILOUS ADVENTURE OF ALL!

BEFORE KARDAK CAN USE HIS MAGIC,
THE TAIL OF THE COMET SWOOPS DOWN
ON THEM!



AND SWEEPS THEM UPWARDS LIKE CHIPS
ON A WAVE!



UP--UP--HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS!



IS NICE LOOPY LOOP
RIDE, MASTER

LORNA! THIS IS
IT! THE LAND OF
THE MASTER
BRAHMINS!

AND STILL ONWARD UNTIL THEY ARE
DEPOSITED AT THE FEET OF THE KING!

SO! MASTER MAGICIAN! WE
BRAHMINS ARE ALSO
VERSED IN MAGIC, AS
YOU NOW KNOW!



YOU ARE THE FIRST MORTALS EVER TO REACH OUR LAND. I HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO DISPOSE OF YOU MYSELF. YOU ARE TOO DANGEROUS!

MY TRIBE SHALL RULE YOUR EARTH. WE ARE THE WISEST OF ALL BEINGS. OUR GOD, THE FOUR-HEADED SIVA, SHALL BE THE GOD OF ALL THE WORLD!

LOOK, O KARDAK! I CONJURE UP A PICTURE OF THE FATE I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOUR PEOPLE!

A GREEN MIST ENVELOPS THE MORTALS IN THE VISION! SOME DIE OUTRIGHT. OTHERS ARE DRIVEN MAD! ALL IS CHAOS!

THAT IS THE FATE OF ALL WHO OPPOSE ME, KARDAK!

BUT KARDAK'S MAGIC IS ALSO POTENT.

PRESTO! GAS MASKS! AND MY PEOPLE ARE SAVED!

THUS WILL I FRUSTRATE YOU AT EVERY TURN, O MASTER-BRAHMIN. YOU SHALL NEVER RULE MY WORLD. BETTER FOR YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR OWN, IMMEDIATELY!

FOOL! I KNOW YOUR WEAKNESS! IT IS IN YOUR EYES! I SEND A BLACK CLOUD TO BEFOG YOU - AND YOU ARE HELPLESS!

LEAVE UM MASTER ALONE OR
BALTHAR MAKE UM
HAMBURGERS OF YOU!

THIS IRON MASK
WILL KEEP HIM
FROM SEEING!

KARDAK IS DRAGGED TOWARD A CHUTE!

NOW WE THROW
HIM INTO THE HALL
OF MIRRORS

HIS DOOM IS
SEALED!

PLEASE DON'T
HARM KARDAK!

THE FAITHFUL BALTHAR
BREAKS LOOSE

MASTER!
ME COME
TOO!

THIS PLACE
MORE AND
MORE LIKE
CONEY
ISLAND!

OO! MUCH
DIZZY!
EVERYWHERE, SEE
FACE OF BALTHAR,
AND IS NOT
VERY PRETTY!

BALTHAR!
WHERE ARE WE?
IS THERE ANY
WAY OUT?

MASTER! GREEN GAS COME!
WHAT DO?

THE GREEN MIST! RUN,
BALTHAR! WE'RE DONE
FOR IF IT ENVELOPS
US!

BUT BALTHAR IS MET AT
EVERY TURN BY MIRRORS

THIS LOOK LIKE
PASSAGEWAY!
OOF! ME WRONG!

BALTHAR! YOUR MAGIC
TURBAN! TAKE IT OFF!
FLING IT! IT'S OUR ONLY
CHANCE!

ME DO!

THE MAGIC TURBAN REVEALS A PASSAGEWAY THROUGH THE MIRROR-ED CORRIDORS!

IT WORK, MASTER, HOLD ME BY HAND!

I'LL BE YOUR QUEEN— ONLY PLEASE DON'T HARM MY FRIENDS!

MEANWHILE, THE KING USHERS LOANA TO THE SACRED TEMPLE ROOM OF SIVA

I SHALL NEED A MORTAL QUEEN WHEN I RULE YOUR WORLD. COME SIVA, SHALL CONSECRATE YOU!

NO! THEY MUST DIE! AND NOW FOR THE SACRED CEREMONY!

NO! NO!

SIVA, O GOD OF MY PEOPLE, IN YOUR NAME DO I MAKE THIS MORTAL MY QUEEN

YOU MAKE UM BUM GUESS, KING. WE STILL GOT MUCH LIFE!

IT IS DONE! ONCE I HAVE ESTABLISHED MY RULE, YOU SHALL DIE TOO — AS DID YOUR FRIENDS!

THE EARTHLINGS! HOW... WHAT...

NOW BALTHAR FIX YOU!

STOP HIM! STOP HIM!

BALTHAR HURLS THE KING INTO THE FLAMES

HELP! DON'T!

(YOU LIKE UM YOUR GOD SO MUCH, YOU GO TO HIM!)

THE ENRAGED BRAHMINS RUSH TOWARD BALTHAR



STOP! I AM YOUR RULER NOW! I FORBID YOU TO TOUCH HIM!

SIVA WOULD DESTROY US IF WE DIS-OBEYED!

IT IS TRUE!



NOW, RELEASE KARDAK!

GOOD GIRL, LORNA! THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD!



LORNA! THEY MUST OBEY YOUR COMMANDS. NOW LISTEN, BZZ... BZZ....

I'LL TRY IT, KARDAK!



I- YOUR QUEEN, ORDER YOU TO GIVE UP THE PLAN OF CONQUERING THE EARTH. GO BACK TO YOUR OWN LAND!

NO! NO!

WE CANNOT!



REMEMBER! THE WRATH OF SIVA WILL STRIKE YOU DOWN IF YOU DEFLY YOUR RULER! I COMMAND YOU!



THE BRAHMINS ARE FORCED TO ACCEDE. A ROLL OF THUNDER, A BURST OF SMOKE, AND THE LAND ABOVE THE CLOUDS DISAPPEARS



THE EARTHLINGS HURTLE DOWN!

THAT WAS QUICK WORK.. DON'T WORRY, I'LL SEE TO IT WE LAND SAFELY



HERE WE ARE! ATOP THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING! OUR MISSION IS DONE.

I'M CERTAINLY GLAD TO BE BACK IN MY OWN WORLD!



GOING DOWN?

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